Bengaluru Monday, December 1, 2025 Pages 16 Vol 78 No 331 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

King Kohli reigns supreme

- It was Kohli's 45th ton batting at the No. 3 position
- It was his 6th ODI century vs SA, most by any player
- Kohli's brilliant century powered India to 349/8

Virat Kohli smashed a 120-ball 135 in the opening ODI against South Africa for a record-extending 52nd century

P13

South Africa, despite reeling at 11/3, made a superb fightback through Breeztke (72), Jansen (70) and Bosch (67) but eventually were dismissed for 332

World

Hasina's extradition 'alone' won't deter ties with India: B'desh P.12

Business P.10

GIFT City: India's emerging rival to Dubai and Singapore

Nation

'Hindutva soul of Bharat': RSS' Hosabale P.8

World

Israel PM submits pardon request in graft cases P.12

New levies to keep 'sin goods' price high

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union government plans to impose new levies on 'sin goods' such as cigarettes, gutkha and pan masala, which will keep the prices of these demerit items high, as the current structure of compensation cess is likely to be discontinued by March 2026.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to introduce two new bills in the Lok Sabha on Monday that will be aimed at imposing new tax/cess on demerit goods. The proposed bills are — The Central Excise Amendment Bill, 2025, and The Health Security se National Security Cess Bill, 2025.

The Central Excise Amendment Bill, 2025, seeks to replace the GST compensation cess on tobacco products with an excise duty.

With the introduction of the GST in July 2017, the main tax rates on tobacco and tobacco products came down substantially. However, the government imposed additional levy in the form of compensation cess. As a result, the prices of these items remained elevated.

Initially, the cess was introduced for five years to compensate the states for any revenue shortfall. As per the terms of the introduction of the GST regime, states were guaranteed 14% annual growth in tax revenue for five years beginning from July 2017. However, the cess was extended till March 2026 to repay loans taken by the Union government to support states during the revenue shortfall caused by the Covid pandemic.

"Compensation cess levied on tobacco and tobacco products, wherever applicable, will be discontinued once interest payment obligations and loan liabilities under the compensation cess account are completely discharged," the Union finance minister noted in the 'statement of objects and reasons' of the proposed Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

In order to give the government the fiscal space to increase the rate of central excise duty on tobacco and tobacco products so as to protect tax incidence, it is imperative to amend the table in Section IV of the Fourth Schedule to the said Act (Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017), the minister stated.

The 'Health Security se National Security Cess' Bill will replace the compensation cess on pan masala. Through this, the government seeks to "augment the resources for meeting expenditure on national security and for public health".

▸ New levies, Page 3A

TAXING TOBACCO

- Currently, 28% GST is levied on tobacco and pan masala
- Besides, compensation cess at varied rates is levied

Central Excise Amendment Bill, 2025

Will replace GST compensation cess on tobacco with excise duty

'Health Security se National Security Cess Bill, 2025'

- Will replace compensation cess on pan masala
- Will levy a cess on machines installed or other processes undertaken by which specified goods are manufactured or produced

Parl set for stormy session

Parliament's Winter Session is all set for a stormy start on Monday with the Opposition readying to insist on a discussion on the SIR even as the government expressed its willingness to discuss any issue as per rules. The Opposition is also keen to have discussions on national security against the backdrop of Delhi blast, labour codes, Governors' role, among others.
Details on Page 8

Bengaluru cops bet on best for smarter policing

To launch think tank with top edu institutions, startups

DH EXCLUSIVE

NINA C GEORGE
BENGALURU, DHNS

Faced with mounting threats to law and order and rising crime rates, the Bengaluru City Police have proposed to tap into the city's elite educational institutions and startups to launch a budget-neutral think tank and innovation hub called the Urban Policing Innovation Cell (UPIC).

The cell envisages tying up with the city's flagship academic institutions such as IISc, NLSIU, NIMHANS and various tech startups to tackle aggravating traffic congestion, escalating cybercrime, misinformation, and the growing drug menace.

The cell will also feed off the existing capacities like Command and Control Centre, Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems, CCTV networks, CEN stations and Traffic Management Centres.

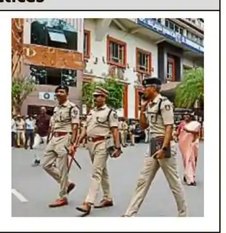
A senior police official, who didn't want to be named, told *DH*, "We will establish a knowledge repository and initiate academic partnerships over the next six months. UPIC is expected to be fully operational within one and a half years."

The cell will be headed by the Commissioner of Police.

MAJOR OBJECTIVES

Establishing multi-channel victim feedback systems and trauma-informed practices

- Building a Victim Trust Index to benchmark dignity, responsiveness, and fairness
- Instituting independent review panels and citizen audits
- Building AI-enabled repository of SOPs, case studies etc
- Integrating CCTV, drones, and surveillance analytics for real-time response



Tackling evolving policing challenges

The initiative comes against the backdrop of a realisation that traditional manpower-heavy policing models are insufficient to address the evolving policing challenges.

"Frequent transfers of officers result in their best practices in achieving better conviction rates not getting institutionalised and are therefore lost. It is here that the proposed cell can help in institutionalising best practices and ensuring their swift use in critical circumstances," the officer said.

▸ B'luru cops, Page 3A

EC extends SIR schedule by a week amid Opposition ire

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Election Commission on Sunday extended the schedule of ongoing second phase of the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in various states and Union Territories by a week. The decision came amid questions by the Opposition over the "tight timelines" of the exercise, which allegedly triggered problems for people and ground-level officials alike.

The draft rolls will now be published on December 16 instead of December 9, and the final rolls on February 14 instead of February 7. The SIR is underway in 12 states and UTs, including poll-bound Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal and Puducherry.

EC sources said the additional week is for the BLOs to share lists of absent, shifted, dead and duplicate voters with Booth Level Agents to ensure full transparency.

▸ SIR, Page 3A

TWEAKING OF TIMELINES

- House-to-house enumeration to end on Dec 11 instead of Dec 4
- Draft rolls will be published on December 16 instead of December 9
- Final rolls on February 14 instead of February 7
- Deadline for rationalisation, re-arrangement of polling stations extended to Dec 11

RBI may keep interest rates unchanged

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to keep key policy interest rates unchanged in its monetary policy review this week following a better-than-expected GDP growth figures even as inflation projections remain subdued due to GST rate rationalisation and good kharif harvest, analysts said.

The central bank's rate setting panel Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is scheduled to meet from December 3 to 5.

According to analysts, the MPC faces a delicate decision due to favourable numbers on inflation as well as the economic growth front. The RBI has kept the key policy interest rates unchanged since August.

Details on Page 10

India eyes fighter jet, missile defence deal during Putin visit

BLOOMBERG

India plans to start discussions toward the purchase of Russian fighter jets and a missile defence shield during President Vladimir Putin's visit this week, according to people with knowledge of the matter, even as the President Donald Trump administration seeks to reduce dealings between the two nations.

India and Russia have a Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership under which discussions for the purchase of Su-57 fighter jets and an advanced version of the missile defence shield S-500 are expected, said the people who asked not to be named as the matter is private. A potential agreement with Russia could complicate any trade deal with the US, which has pushed back against India's weapons purchases from Moscow.

The Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Defence didn't respond to emails sent after office hours seeking comments.

PM Narendra Modi has maintained the country's longstanding ties to Moscow, while pursuing deeper links with the US in recent decades. The country has reduced its overwhelming reliance on Russian weapons by acquiring more arms from the US and European nations.

Moscow remains India's largest supplier of military hardware despite a significant drop in purchase of Russian weapons in the four years ending 2024, according to a report of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, an independent think tank.

▸ Putin, Page 3A

Modi, Putin to discuss N-cooperation beyond KNPP, Page 5

Veteran actor Umesh passes away

M S Umesh

BENGALURU, DHNS: Veteran Kannada actor M S Umesh died at a hospital here on Sunday. He was 80.

The actor, who was battling cancer for a while, is survived by his wife and daughter.

Known for his comedy roles and a unique blend of theatre discipline and cinematic charm, Umesh leaves behind a legacy of over 350 films spanning six decades.

Details on Page 4

STORM SURVIVORS

People being evacuated by the Indian Air Force (IAF) from a cyclone-hit area as part of 'Operation Sagar Bandhu' in Sri Lanka. PTI

Reports on Pages 5&12

Herald case: FIR against Sonia, Rahul

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Delhi Police has registered a case of cheating and criminal conspiracy against Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi among others on a complaint filed by the ED in the National Herald case, alleging they fraudulently acquired Associated Journals Ltd (AJL) that was publishing the party mouthpiece.

The Congress called the FIR "completely bogus" and accused the Modi government of continuing with its "mischievous politics of harassment".

Details on Page 8

Quickly

PM unveils roadmap for future policing

PM Narendra Modi on Sunday unveiled a comprehensive 'Roadmap for Policing towards Vision 2047', urging the nation's top police officials to transform public perception and meet the goals of a 'Viksit Bharat'. He was addressing the All India Conference of DGPs/IGPs at Raipur.

Details on Page 5

11 killed in TN as govt buses collide

As many as 11 persons were killed and over 20 injured on Sunday after two state-run buses collided head-on, police said. The mishap occurred approximately 15 km away from Karaikudi.

Details on Page 9

Cracks appear in Bihar Oppn ahead of session

All is not well in the Opposition camp ahead of the Bihar Assembly's inaugural session on Monday. While a section in the state Congress argued that "over-aggressive stand by the RJD" turned away voters, some RJD leaders said they were never in favour of a tie-up with the Congress.

Details on Page 8

Indian airlines complete A320 software upgrades

Aviation regulator DGCA on Sunday said Indian carriers have completed the software upgrades on 323 operational A320 family planes to address a potential issue related to flight controls. A total of 338 A320 family aircraft with the three Indian airlines – IndiGo, Air India and Air India Express – were initially identified for the upgrades, but only 323 of them were operational.

Trump officials meet Ukraine's negotiators

Top Trump administration officials – Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Special Envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, son-in-law of Trump – are meeting Ukrainian negotiators to broker an end to the war.

Details on Page 12

Raj revokes order to mark Dec 6 'Shaurya Diwas'

A controversial order directing schools in Rajasthan to observe December 6 – the day the Babri Masjid was demolished – as "Shaurya Diwas" was on Sunday recalled by the government after it drew flak.

Details on Page 9

Mother-son duo killed in accident

BENGALURU, DHNS: A woman and her son were killed on the spot after a canter vehicle ran over them following an accident on the busy Mysuru road here on Sunday morning.

The deceased have been identified as Ashwini (41) and her son Abhilash (20), residents of Kengeri. Abhilash was reportedly dropping his mother to work when the tragedy occurred around 7.45 am.

Details on Page 2

GENE MATTERS

South Indians more prone to heart disease: Study

DH EXCLUSIVE

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

People from South India possess a unique set of genetic changes that significantly increase their risk of heart disease, researchers from Bengaluru have found in a groundbreaking discovery that highlights the need to move beyond Western-centric data.

Researchers from the Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (inStem) found that individuals from South India are more susceptible to Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM), a serious condition where the heart muscle thickens, often leading to heart failure and sudden cardiac death.

The research examined the gene sequences of a large cohort of HCM patients from South Indian populations. The patients were recruited in collaboration with major cardiology centres, including the Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research.

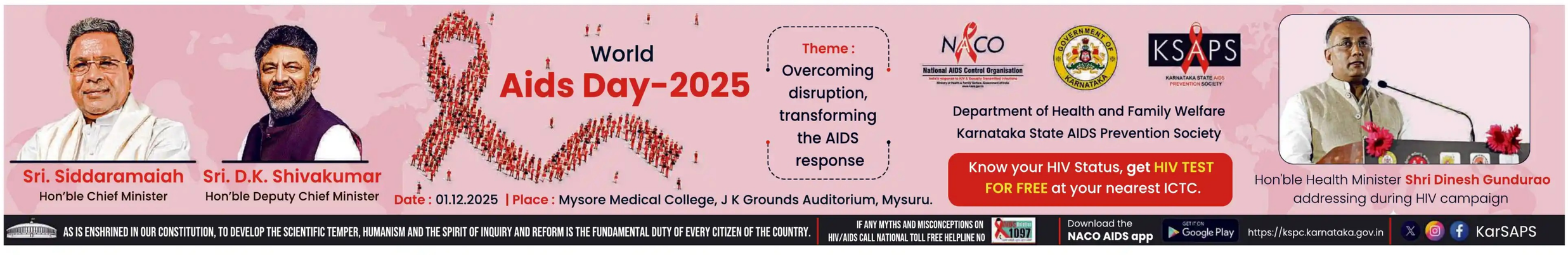
The study initially recruited 1,558 unrelated South Indian patients with various cardiomyopathies, with the final genetic analysis being performed on the cohort of 335 primary HCM patients.

▸ Heart disease, Page 3A

WHAT THIS MEANS

Individuals from South India found to be more susceptible to Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy

- Discovery will allow clinicians to more precisely diagnose risk for sudden cardiac deaths
- Could be a game-changer for personalised medicine in India


Sri. Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Sri. D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
World
Aids Day-2025
Theme : Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response
Date : 01.12.2025 | Place : Mysore Medical College, J K Grounds Auditorium, Mysuru.
NACO National AIDS Control Organisation
Government of Karnataka
KSAPS Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society
Department of Health and Family Welfare
Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society
Know your HIV Status, get HIV TEST FOR FREE at your nearest ICTC.
Hon'ble Health Minister Shri Dinesh Gundurao addressing during HIV campaign
AS IS ENSHRINED IN OUR CONSTITUTION, TO DEVELOP THE SCIENTIFIC TEMPER, HUMANISM AND THE SPIRIT OF INQUIRY AND REFORM IS THE FUNDAMENTAL DUTY OF EVERY CITIZEN OF THE COUNTRY.
IF ANY MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS ON HIV/AIDS CALL NATIONAL TOLL FREE HELPLINE NO 1097
Download the NACO AIDS app
Google Play
https://kspc.karnataka.gov.in
KarSAPS

KSR · Yeshwantpur · SMVT · Cantonment **KR PURAM STATION**

20 months after the foundation-stone laying by the PM, progress towards modernisation is at a snail's pace; passengers struggle with poor access

KR Puram station grows year on year, but upgrade works remain sluggish

ASRA MAVAD & SHRADDHA AK
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Krishnarajapuram railway station, once linked with the establishment of Karnataka's largest diesel loco shed in 1983 and the opening of the cable-stayed bridge in 2003, has long been a crucial transit hub in eastern Bengaluru.

A *DH* reality check earlier this year found the station, which has four platforms and handles over 180 trains daily, to be the most neglected among major stations in the city.

A follow-up five months later showed noticeable improvement in cleanliness. Homeless people remained at the entrance during both visits, though fewer were seen sleeping on stairways.

The station offers basic facilities such as waiting rooms, rest areas, washrooms, and a moderately sized food court. However, it lacks accessibility features, posing difficulties for senior citizens and Persons with Disability (PWDs).

Passengers say the only way to reach the walkover bridge connecting the platforms is by climbing stairs.

A new women-only waiting area has been created with clean washrooms and rest spaces. A pay-and-use toilet, a newly built pay-and-use facility, and washrooms for PWDs exist, but remain locked.

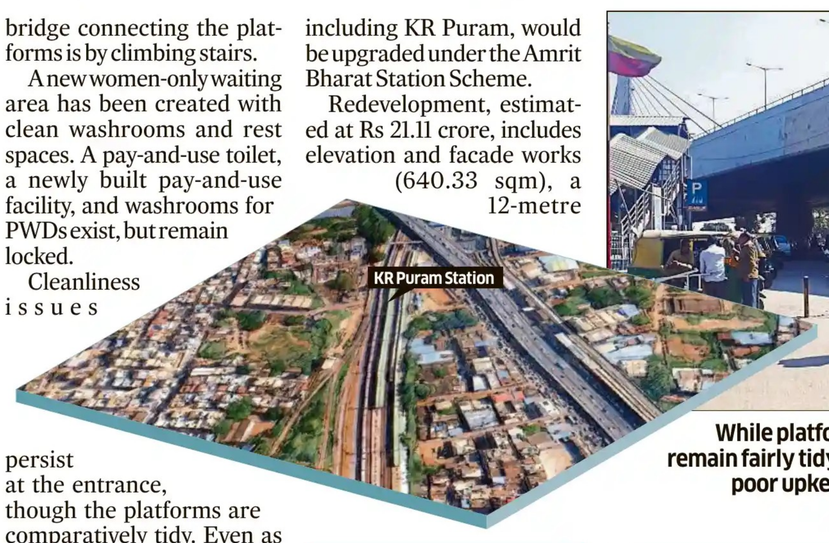
Cleanliness issues persist at the entrance, though the platforms are comparatively tidy. Even as theft remains a continuing concern, passengers report frequent harassment from beggars, especially in the evenings.

KR Puram sees a steady flow of passengers boarding Vande Bharat trains to Chennai and Madurai. Many local residents choose the station over Bengaluru SMVT due to its proximity to the metro station, two bus stops, and a relatively cleaner environment. Work still in progress.

The South Western Railway (SWR) announced last year that four city stations, including KR Puram, would be upgraded under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.

Redevelopment, estimated at Rs 21.11 crore, includes elevation and facade works (640.33 sqm), a 12-metre foot overbridge with lifts, a third entry building (433.66 sqm), six escalators and lifts, and additional parking for 372 two-wheelers and 126 cars.

An SWR official said Platform 4 has seen most of the progress. A pay-and-use toilet, a VIP lounge and an expanded parking area have been completed. Ongoing works include improvement of the circulating area behind Platform 4, general and ladies waiting halls, an 80-metre extension of Platform 4, and a third entry with a booking office and parking.



While platforms at the KR Puram railway station remain fairly tidy, the station entrance struggles with poor upkeep amid frequent thefts and evening harassment by beggars. DH PHOTO

HIGHLIGHTS

4 platforms

Handles over 180 trains daily

Being redeveloped at a cost of Rs 21.11 crore

Important **intercity transit point** in eastern Bengaluru

STATE OF STATIONS

Significance

Located on the Bengaluru–Chennai main line, KR Puram (KJM) is a key suburban and intercity junction serving eastern Bengaluru. Its growth has paralleled the expansion of nearby IT corridors and rising commuter traffic from Whitefield and surrounding areas.

Residents say progress 'slow'

G Kochu Sankar, a local resident and citizen volunteer, said he has tracked the redevelopment for 18 months. He recently wrote to the divisional railway manager, but has not received a response.

"Twenty months after the prime minister laid the foundation stone, nothing has been initiated for modernisation. Even basic minimum needs are lacking. No lifts, no escalators, not even ramps... and no sign of starting anything," his letter stated.

Cyclone's icy touch leaves city in shivers

Temperature dips to 21.6 degrees Celsius

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru residents reached for their blankets this weekend as the city recorded one of the sharpest temperature drops in recent years.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the maximum temperature fell to 21.6 degrees Celsius on Saturday, making it the coldest November day of the season and well below the average minimum of 18.3 degrees Celsius.

The chill is linked to a cyclone forming over the Bay of Bengal. The IMD said cloudy weather, higher moisture and the breeze triggered by Cyclone Ditwah contributed to the temperature dip.

The Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre said dry weather is likely to persist across the state, though residents should prepare for cold and foggy mornings.

Weather in the coming days will be shaped by leftover moisture from the cyclonic system, leading to cloudy and damp conditions. Residents have been advised to keep umbrellas handy and dress warmly for cool mornings.

People take cover under umbrellas as steady showers, brought in by Cyclone Ditwah, sweep across the city. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Amid the gentle winter chill, children enjoy themselves at Cubbon Park on Sunday, running across the lawns, playing games, and soaking in the weekend sunshine. DH PHOTO/RANJU P

Woman, 20-yr-old son killed after two-wheeler collides with canter on Mysuru Road

BENGALURU, DHNS: A mother and her son were killed on the spot after a canter ran over them on Mysuru Road on Sunday morning.

The deceased have been identified as Ashwini (41) and her son Abhilash (20), residents of Doodagollarahatti, Kengeri. Abhilash was reportedly dropping his mother to work when the tragedy occurred around 7.45 am.

Byatarayanapura traffic police said the incident took place while the two were riding towards KR Market. Their bike handle is suspected to have brushed against a canter moving alongside, causing Abhilash to lose control. Both fell onto the road and were run over by the heavy vehicle. They sustained severe head injuries and died on the spot.

A crowd gathered at the scene, shocked by the accident. The bodies have been sent to Victoria Hospital for post-mortem examination.

Traffic police inspected the area and managed the resulting traffic jam. They have registered a case of accident and detained the canter driver, identified as Shiva.

Police said CCTV footage from nearby establishments is being reviewed to determine the sequence of events and the cause of the two-wheeler losing balance.

Woman killed at worksite

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru police arrested a man after a woman was stabbed to death near a construction site in Seshadripuram on Saturday over a personal matter.

The accused, Nagappa Poojari, 31, lived near Electronics City and did menial jobs.

Police said Poojari was angry with the deceased, Sharanamma (23), as she had refused to share details about her married sister, who was reportedly in a relationship with him.

They said that, in an intoxicated state, Poojari took a large kitchen knife and stabbed Sharanamma in the chest at an under-construction building where she lived and worked with her husband, killing her.

The investigation showed that Sharanamma and her husband, a security guard, had been living at the site for the past year. They were originally from Indi in Vijayapura, police said.

Citizens, experts slam tunnel road project; dub Rs 42,000-cr project 'ill conceived'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bengaluru tunnel road project drew strong criticism on Sunday at a citizens' convention organised by the Save Bangalore Committee.

Experts and activists described the plan as ill conceived, economically unjustifiable, and a threat to the city's environment and liveability.

G Shashikumar, convener of Save Bangalore Committee, opposed the Rs 42,000-crore proposal, calling it unscientific, fiscally irresponsible, and environmentally destructive.

He warned costs could rise to Rs 70,000 crore, burdening citizens with taxes and tolls for decades. He said the tunnels would carry only 1,800 car passengers per hour, compared with 69,000 on the metro and 1.75 lakh on BMTC buses.

He urged the government to invest more in public transport. He criticised the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for plagiarised data and 121 major flaws, and accused authorities of ignoring ecological, geological, and hydrological risks near sensitive areas such as Lalbagh, Hebbal Lake and Sankey Tank where tunnel exits are planned.

In a video message, Prof Ashish Verma of the IISc Sustainable Transportation Lab dismissed the project's merit.

He called it "counterintuitive and counterproductive" to the goal of moving people and goods, not cars. He said a single metro rail lane can carry 69,000 passengers per hour per direction, while a tunnel road lane manages only 1,800 — a 40-fold difference for similar investments.

Prof TV Ramachandra of the Centre for Ecological Sciences at IISc spoke of serious environmental impacts and linked such projects to rising greenhouse gas emissions and climate disasters.

He said the city should focus on mitigating frequent flooding, as shown by the closure of underpasses during rains, instead of pursuing destructive projects.

He noted the steep decline in Bengaluru's green cover and water bodies, from 68% green cover in 1973 to 87% concrete cover today, and the loss of 540 out of 756 lakes. He said the city has exceeded its environmental capacity.

He urged greater priority for public transport and the adoption of "water urbanism principles" to retain rainwater and recharge groundwater, citing the rejuvenation of Sarakki Lake as a model.

(From left) Scientist TV Ramachandra, Prof CP Rajendran, Prof MN Srihari, convenor of Save Bangalore Committee G Shashikumar, Dr Sudha Kamath, and executive trustee of CIVIC Bangalore Kathyayini Chamaraj at the convention in the city on Sunday. DH PHOTO/KISHOR KUMAR BOLAR

White paper push

The convention also featured plastic surgeon and Malleswaram resident Dr Sudha Kamath, executive trustee of CIVIC Bangalore Kathyayini Chamaraj, geoscientist CP Rajendran and others, who called for the government to release a white paper on completed projects and demanded full transparency and accountability for environmental and financial impacts.

Auto driver flees with cop inside, booked; daggers found in vehicle

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Sadashivanagar police booked an autorickshaw driver for speeding away with a traffic policeman inside after being stopped on November 27 around 9 pm near Mehkri Circle.

Traffic police constable Radhakrishna, on beat duty, saw the autorickshaw, KA 04 A3024, driving the wrong way and hitting a two-wheeler. The FIR said Radhakrishna stopped the vehicle, got inside, and asked the driver to park.

The driver instead sped towards Hebbal with the constable still inside. The FIR said the constable's walkie-talkie fell on the road and was damaged during the commotion.

Near Ganganagar, the driver halted and fled. Police later inspected the vehicle and found daggers inside. A case has been registered, and a probe is on.

Driver abuses policeman

In a separate case, on November 28, traffic police constable Madesh KM was allegedly abused by an autorickshaw driver who was speeding near the Palace Guttahalli Bbus stop.

The constable allowed him to leave as he claimed there was a patient in his vehicle, KA 03 AL7031.

The FIR said that the driver, despite being let go, hurled abuses at the constable and tried to attack him after being told to follow the law.

A probe is underway.

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC, K.R.PURAM, BENGALURU RURAL
O.S.No. 770/2025
Between: Smt. Mamatha
.....Plaintiff/Applicant
And: Sri. Manohar Gowda M.A and Others
.....Defendants/Opponent
SUIT SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANT NO.4
DEFENDANT NO. 4
Sri. Ajeeth S/o Girivasan, Aged about 45 years, R/at No.100," Ramesh Nivas" 12th cross, Rammurtynagar, Bangalore-560016 Represented by his General Power of Attorney holder Sri Manoj Kumar S/o Sri. Kumara Muneshwaraiah
Whereas, the Plaintiff has filed the above suit for permanent injunction in respect of the suit schedule property against the Defendants.
This Hon'ble Court was pleased to pass an interim order dated 20.07.2024 against Defendant No.1 to 4 restraining the Defendants from alienating, encumbering, creating third party rights of any nature over the suit schedule property and this Hon'ble Court was pleased to issue notice to all the Defendants in the present Suit. You are hereby called upon to appear before the Court of Hon'ble Principal Civil Judge and JMFC, K.R.PURAM, Bengaluru rural, in person or through a pleader on **21st day of January 2026 at 11.00 AM** to answer the same, failing which, the above suit filed by the Plaintiff will be decided in your absence as ex-parte.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
ITEM NO.1: All that piece and parcel of the land bearing Sy.No.135, measuring 3 acres 27 guntas, situated at Mandur Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Benagaluruand bounded by: **East by:** Land bearing Sy No. 136 **West by:** Land bearing Sy No. 132, **North by:** Remaining extent of land in same Sy No.135, **South by:** Land bearing Sy No. 194
ITEM NO.2: All that piece and parcel of theland bearing Sy.No.136, measuring 3 acres 27 guntas, situated at Mandur Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Benagaluruand bounded by: **East by:** Land bearing Sy No. 188, **West by:** Land bearing Sy No. 135, **North by:** Remaining extent of land in same Sy No.136, **South by:** Land bearing Sy No.194
Given under my hand and seal of court, on this 26th day of Nov 2025.
By order of the court, Sheristedar, Civil Judge & J.M.F.C Krishnarajapuram
Advocate for Plaintiff:
Magnah Law Partners, 1/24, Hanumanthappa Layout, Ulsoor Road, Bengaluru-560042. Mob. No: 7411066814

Need a hand? Write to us

Letters of grievances are pouring in and we are doing our best to accommodate as many as possible. Readers may write in to highlight civic problems affecting their locality and we will help address them in an interactive and effective manner. Grievances and issues related to public utility agencies such as Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (Bescom) would be highlighted in the weekly column.
The writeups, which could be accompanied by photographs highlighting the problems, will be published on Mondays. Mail your grievances to: peoplesproblems@deccanherald.co.in

BWSSB replaces sewage pipes every few years

On the road behind the Ragigudda metro station, the BWSSB replaced sewerage pipes last May — pipes that had already been replaced in 2022, soon after Covid. The road itself was newly laid that same year.

During the work, all HSC connections were damaged, forcing residents to pay up to Rs 2,000 each for materials, despite the BWSSB initially saying the connections would be provided free.

Earthmovers also damaged several electrical and water lines, which residents again had to repair at their own expense.

Sewerage lines are typically replaced once in 20 years. Better planning could avoid such waste of public funds. Can the authorities exercise due diligence in future?
Murali Krishnan

Repeated pipework behind the Ragigudda metro station burdens residents.

Garbage-choked drains under the Hennur flyover remain uncleared.

Spell of rain leaves Hennur Main Road flooded

A brief spell of rain is enough to flood Hennur Main Road. The drains below the Hennur flyover appear to be clogged with garbage and debris, and the manholes are not being desilted regularly. As a result, every time it rains, the road is inundated and the manholes overflow.

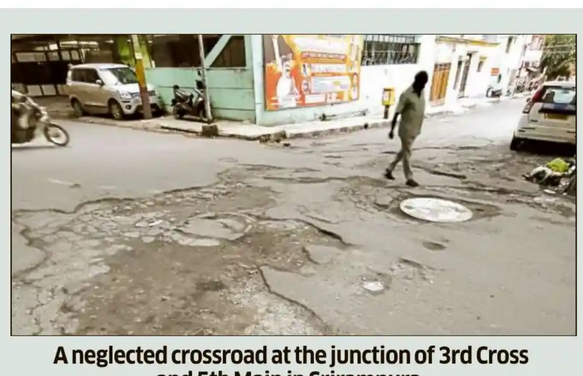
Repeated complaints to the authorities concerned have gone unanswered. This issue has persisted for months, and the risk of waterborne diseases is now very high.

The civic authorities must take this up on priority — prevent garbage from being dumped into the drains, ensure regular desilting, and maintain basic hygiene.

Malleswaram's poor cousin

Srirampura, though adjacent to Malleswaram, appears to have received stepmotherly treatment when it comes to road maintenance.

A clear example is the badly maintained crossroad at the junction of 3rd Cross and 5th Main in Srirampura.
Ajay Ghatage
Srirampura



A neglected crossroad at the junction of 3rd Cross and 5th Main in Srirampura.

Keeping the roads clean and safe is essential, especially for motorists and two-wheeler riders who use this stretch daily.
David Dayan Ahiah
Hennur Main Road

Construction material dumped on footpath

Construction debris has been lying on the footpath near the parking lot of Solanki Eye Hospital in Malleswaram for years.

The hospital authorities had dumped stone slabs on the footpath nearly four years ago while demolishing the building they had purchased.

During the recent drainage desilting work, the contractor assured residents that the debris would be cleared, but nothing has been done so far. There has also been no response from the BBMP/GBA officials concerned.

I raised a formal complaint (No 20947910 on November 22), but there has been no action to date.

I request the authorities to clear the debris at the earliest so that pedestrians can safely use the footpath again.
Devaraj Srinivasan
Malleswaram

Debris dumped near Solanki Eye Hospital has left the footpath unusable for years.

Officials for better coordination to tackle wildlife crime

BENGALURU, DHNS: Senior officials from the state and central agencies met here recently to discuss recent trends in wildlife crime and cross-border linkages as well as strategies for improved surveillance.

The meeting saw officials from Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) and CID Forest wing holding discussions with the Karnataka Forest Department on crucial issues. Among other things, the need for assistance in investigation and prosecution of cases was also discussed.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) Meenakshi Negi, who chaired the meeting, stressed the need for enhanced intelligence sharing, increased coordination between partner agencies for real-time coordination to tackle the rising challenges of illegal wildlife trafficking and accurate forensic and legal training for better conviction rates. Officials also stressed the need for better coordination with customs and other agencies.

WCCB authorities said they will continue to provide technical support, intelligence coordination and specialised training to all enforcement partners.

B'luru traffic police wins award for AI traffic system

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) has been honoured with the ET Infra Leadership Award 2025 for its AI-Driven Traffic Management for Bengaluru project. The award was presented at The Economic Times Infra Leadership Summit 2025 at New Delhi.

The BTP received the award in "Excellence in Urban Digital Infrastructure" category. The project was recognised for transforming city mobility by leveraging advanced technology, including real-time data, adaptive signal systems, and predictive analytics.

TODAY IS WORLD AIDS DAY

Lives of HIV+ people bloom with disciplined routine, early treatment

Timely intervention stops virus from multiplying

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Every morning when Pradeep, 33, boards a BMTC bus to work in a multinational company, nothing about him suggests he has been living with HIV for 25 years now.

His story and that of thousands in state are a proof of how treatment and discipline have quietly transformed what was once a life-limiting diagnosis into a fully liveable condition. The national target for India is to reduce rate of HIV below 5%. While the country is still battling to achieve it, Karnataka's HIV rate is already under 5%, data shows. On the occasion of World Aids Day on Dec 1, *DH* spoke to doctors who said treatment for HIV should not be delayed, while survivors shared stories of courage.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus or HIV is an infection contracted from the mother while baby is still in womb, through blood transfusions, unsterilised needles and other sources.

The Indira Gandhi hospital, also the Centre for Excellence of Rare Diseases (COERD) which deals with children infected with HIV and their mothers, started 'Test and Treat' method of treatment in the state, which helped bring down cases.

Dr Sanjeeva G N, professor of paediatrics and nodal officer of COERD, told *DH*: "CD4 is a component in the blood that HIV attacks. Earlier, even after detection of HIV, we would wait for CD4 to decrease to a certain level before starting antiretroviral therapy (ART). But after 2017, we started doing it after detection, without waiting".

Starting therapy immediately prevents the virus from reproducing, which in turn reduces viral load in the body, thus keeping the immune system healthy, said Sanjeeva. Suppression of the virus to the level of undetectable viral load means it is not transmissible, he said.

However, to keep the virus at bay, it is important that survivors adhere to discipline and consume ART drugs, said Sanjeeva.

People with HIV, who have adhered to medicine and have got better, are leading very normal, healthy lives. Many survivors have completed education, secured jobs, married and have had children.

DH spoke to survivors from different age groups who explained how aid from doctors and counselling helped them return to a normal life. However, one of the survivors pointed out that society still disapproved of survivors.

"People still think eating, shaking hands with us or even sitting beside us will infect them," said a woman survivor.

Clearing the myth, Sanjeeva said, "Saliva, air and urine. None of these can affect other people. Only blood, semen and vaginal fluids are carriers."

Police complaint against man over bid to grab forest land

'He forged documents to encroach 512 acres'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The forest department has filed a police complaint against M B Manmatha, also known as Nemanna Gowda, accusing him of forging documents to grab 512 acres of forest in Chikkamagaluru's Mudigere taluk.

In his complaint to the circle inspector, Mudigere, the assistant conservator of forests, Mudigere sub-division said survey number 147/4 and others in G Agrahara village of Gonibeedu hobli in the taluk were forest lands.

Manmatha had filed a petition before the assistant commissioner, Mudigere, claiming that the name of the forest department should be replaced with his name (in the records) in view of the grants made under the Inam Abolition Act and the necessary fee paid to get the land parcels.

The above matter is similar to yet another claim he has made over a total of 532 acres, including 517 acres of B M Kaval forest, in Bengaluru's Kengeri.

As reported by *DH* on November 28, Manmatha filed a petition before the high court under another name, Nemanna Gowda.

It is the court's ruling in his favour that brought the spotlight on Manmatha.

As Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre ordered a crackdown on the conspiracy on the afternoon of November 28, the forest officer in Mudigere moved to comply with the order of the assistant commissioner in the case pertaining to 512 acres.

"As per the order of the assistant commissioner, the appellant (Manmatha) had created forged documents with the intention of grabbing forest land. Hence, I request you to book a case against him and take necessary actions under the law," the complaint, a copy of which is available with *DH*, said.

A police officer in Mudigere circle acknowledged the receipt of the complaint.

"We have received the complaint along with the order of the assistant commissioner. However, we are taking legal opinion on the matter and awaiting further documents and evidence as promised by the range forest officer," an officer said.

Umesh's rib-tickling roles endeared him to cinegoers of all ages

BENGALURU, DHNS: Veteran Kannada actor Mysore Srikantayya Umesh, popularly known as M S Umesh, passed away on Sunday, at the age of 80, after a prolonged battle with cancer.

Popular for his distinct comic timing and versatile character roles across a career spanning over six decades, his demise has sent a wave of grief across Sandalwood.

He is survived by his wife and a daughter. He had recently suffered a fall at home, injuring his leg and hip, and was hospitalised.

During treatment, doctors discovered he had cancer, including liver cancer, and performed surgery on him.

He succumbed to the illness at the city's Kidwai hospital.

Born in Mysuru on April 24, 1945, Umesh's artistic journey began on the stage. He started as a child artiste with renowned theatre troupes, including Gubbi Veeranna's company, before making his silver screen debut in B R Panthulu's 1960 film, Makkala Rajya.

M S Umesh (1945-2025)

His career gained significant momentum following his critically acclaimed role as Thimmarayi in the anthology film Katha Sangama (1976), directed by legendary film director S R Puttanna Kanagal, which fetched him the Karnataka state film award for best supporting actor. Umesh went on to act in over 350 films, sharing screen space with stalwarts such as Dr Rajkumar, Vishnuvardhan, Ambareesh, and Anant Nag.

He acted in films like Nagarahole, Anupama, Haavina Hede, Haalu Jenu, Kamanabillu, Apoorva Sangama and Shruti Seridaaga.

Umesh was particularly celebrated for his roles in classic comedies, including Guru Shishyaru and Golmaal Radhakrishna, where his iconic role as 'Sithapathi' and his signature dialogue 'Ayyayyo nanna apaartha maadkobedi sar' earned him enduring popularity among the Kannada audience. Umesh has received numerous awards and honours, including the Natak Akademi Award in 1994, the Mahanagara Palike award in 1997 and the Visvesvaraya Foundation award for his autobiography 'Bannada Ghante'.

Tributes pour in for comedian

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Kannada film fraternity and fans across the state have mourned the demise of veteran comedy actor Umesh, known for his unique blend of theatre discipline and cinematic charm.

Umesh, 80, who had been battling cancer and enduring personal grief following the loss of his son, passed away on Sunday. He is survived by his wife Sudha and daughter Jayalakshmi. Tributes poured in from both political and film circles for the actor. Senior actor Sundar Raj fondly described him as a bright, unparalleled artiste, comparing his talent with that of legendary comedy stalwarts Balakrishna and Narasimharaju.

CM Siddaramaiah, expressing his deep sorrow, said the government had facilitated free cancer treatment for the actor upon his request. He also extended prayers for speedy recovery of Umesh's wife, who is currently unwell. DyCM D K Shivakumar conveyed his sadness over the loss, stating he had "enjoyed his artistry," calling his passing a loss to the industry. Minister for Kannada and Culture Shivaraj Thangadagi echoed the sentiment, describing Umesh as "one of the most talented actors".

The actor's mortal remains were at Ravindra Kalakshetra here on Sunday, allowing hundreds of fans and industry colleagues to pay their last respects.

Veteran actors like Girija Lokesh, Shruti, Rockline Venkatesh, Dingri Nagaraj, Vaijanath Biradar and Srinagara Kitti were among those who paid their last respects, many of whom had provided care and support to the ailing actor in his final days. Sundar Raj recalled that it was Dr Rajkumar, who personally selected Umesh for several projects, reflecting the high regard the star held for his talent. He said that even in his final days, Umesh's spirit remained unbroken.

A video of him joking and singing from his hospital bed had gone viral on social media, showcasing his remarkable optimism. Sundar Raj, who had visited him in hospital, remembered Umesh's sense of humour despite being in pain. The actor's last appearance was in the film 'Kamal Sridevi', which was released earlier this year.

Four tiger cubs rescued, reunited with mother

MYSURU, DHNS: A team of Forest department personnel rescued four tiger cubs, four to five months old, from an agricultural land at Gowdanakatte of Hunsur taluk in the district in Hanugodu range, Hunsur wildlife division of Mysuru circle on Saturday midnight.

The rescued cubs were reunited with their 12-year-old mother, which was rescued in the same place on November 27.

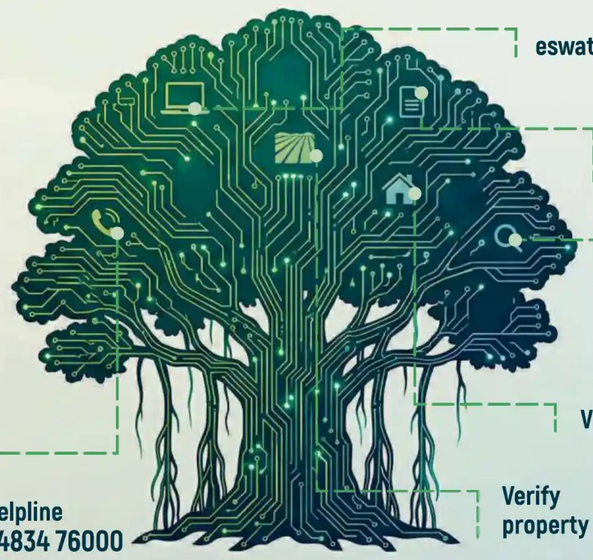
The tigress and its cubs are now housed in Chamundi rescue centre at Koorgalli here.

Meanwhile, a wild jumbo strayed into an agriculture land at Boodanooru tribal hamlet on Bochikatte road in H D Kote taluk of the district, creating anxious moments among residents on Sunday.

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department

Gandhi Grama Puraskara
2023-2024

Launch of
e-Swathu 2.0



Inauguration
Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka

Eminent Presence
Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka

Presided By
Shri Priyank Kharge
Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, E, IT & BT Department, Government of Karnataka

Chief Guest
Shri Rizwan Arshad
Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly Shivajinagar Constituency

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Date: 01.12.2025, Time: 11 AM | Location: Banquet Hall, Vidhana Soudha

"To protect and respect our vibrant culture and tradition," is a Fundamental Duty of every citizen. This is affirmed by our Constitution.

Published by: Karnataka Panchayat Raj Commissionerate, RDPR

BJP to gherao Suvarna Soudha for 'justice to farmers'

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a bid to "provide justice" to farmers, the BJP will take out a padayatra and gherao Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi on December 8, when the winter session of the legislature begins.

"Farmers and agricultural labourers are in trouble. We will protest against the government which has not come to their rescue," BJP Raitha Morcha state secretary Satish Kadatanamale told a news conference here on Sunday.

"While the government says Rs 3,300 has to be given for each tonne of sugarcane procured, Minister Eshwar Khandre says only Rs 2,900 will be given. No centre has been opened to purchase maize. In every district, there must be a centre to procure crops grown by farmers of that district".

BJP Raitha Morcha state vice-president M Rudresh accused the Congress of "failing" on its manifesto promise.

"The agriculture, horticulture, marketing and sugar ministers are abroad. Find them and make them give compensation to farmers. Let them give relief to farmers."

New levies to keep 'sin goods' price high

New levies, from Page 1

It will "levy a cess for the said purposes on the machines installed or other processes undertaken by which specified goods are manufactured or produced".

At present, tobacco products, including cigarettes, pan masala, gutkha, and chewing tobacco, attract 28% GST, along with excise duty, National Calamity Contingent Duty (NCCD), and compensation cess. In the 56th GST council meeting held in September it was proposed to bring these items under the higher tax slab of 40%. However, the proposal is not yet officially notified.

DKS hits back at HDK, asks if Gowda didn't take seer's support

Recalls how 2nd Vokkaliga mutt came into being

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a sharp counter to Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy's statement that religious mutts must stay away from politics, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar wondered on Sunday if JD(S) supremo and Kumaraswamy's father H D Deve Gowda would've become chief minister if not for the support of the (Vokkaliga mutt) seer.

Speaking to reporters, the deputy chief minister said, "Doesn't Kumaranna know how second (Vokkaliga) mutt came into being? Would Deve Gowda have become chief minieter if not for the seer? Didn't the Swami hit the streets then? When Sadananda Gowda faced trouble, did the Swami keep quiet? Other Swamis have also spoken. Did I get upset?".

He was responding to Kumaraswamy's statement on Saturday, objecting to the opinion of some seers, including Vokkaliga seer Nirmalanandanatha Swami of Adichunchanagiri Mutt, that Shivakumar should become the chief minister.

The 'second mutt' pointed out by Shivakumar refers to the Vishwa Vokkaligara Maha Samsthana Mutt in Kengeri (headed by late Kumara Chandrashekaranatha Swami) formed in the 1990s with the support of Deve Gowda.

Turf war

Shivakumar and Kumaraswamy, both Vokkaligas, have been engaged in a turf war for political leadership over the Vokkliga community that is dominant in South Karnataka.

In a sarcastic jibe, the deputy chief minister said: "He (Kumaraswamy) is very big, he doesn't need anyone's blessings. He has never taken the help of Mutt, Vokkaligara Sangha and caste."

When told that Kumaraswamy had claimed that he never sought the support of seers, Shivakumar retorted: "Have I sought? I never asked any Swami for help. I may have been born in a caste, but I love all castes. The Balehonnur, Srishaila and many others seers have also spoken in my favour. Did I ask them? Is it wrong?"

'Tried till end to save Kumaraswamy government'

On tensions within the ruling Congress that reached a truce on Saturday through a breakfast meeting involving Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and himself, Shivakumar said, "I never indulge in groupism. As all have observed, I go alone to Delhi. I could've taken 8-10 legislators with me, that's not a big deal. When I am (state party) president, I need to take everyone along."

He claimed that he had worked honestly with Kumaraswamy too. "He may not accept it, but God knows my dedication. Even his father knows how hard I worked to save Kumaraswamy's government. Let him speak whatever he wants, I won't object. I have never backstabbed, will always fight directly."

Bidar Superintendent of Police Pradeep Gunti inspects ganja seized in Basavakalyan taluk on Saturday.

Bidar police seize 660 kg of ganja worth Rs 6.6 crore, two arrested

BASAVAKALYAN (BIDAR DIST), DHNS: In a major haul, Bidar police on Saturday seized 660 kg of ganja worth over 6.6 crore near Rajeshwar in Basavakalyan taluk of the district. Two people, including one from the district, have been arrested.

Acting on a tip-off, police intercepted a Tata Bolero vehicle on the national highway near Rajeshwar and seized 6.6 quintals of ganja worth Rs 6.6 crore and the vehicle. The contraband was being transported to Maharashtra from Odisha and Visakhapatnam.

The police have arrested Sanjeev of Bidar and another person. The Basavakalyan police have registered a case and investigation is on.

In July 2024, the district police had seized 305 kg of ganja worth Rs 3 crore at Bhangur check-post on the Telangana border. The ganja was being transported to Maharashtra from Odisha. The Mannalli police had arrested four men from Malkangiri in Odisha.

SUNDAY RUSH

A large number of people throng Cubbon Park for the flower show, in Bengaluru on Sunday. DH PHOTO/RANJU P

EC extends SIR schedule by a week amid Oppn ire

SIR, from Page 1

The house-to-house enumeration phase, which was to end on December 4, has now been extended to December 11, giving time for the booth-level officers (BLOs) to finish their task and allow voters to submit enumeration forms after matching it with previous SIR rolls. Some sections had complained that finding their names in the previous SIR list was cumbersome.

The deadline for rationalisation and re-arrangement of polling stations has been extended to December 11 as also the timeline for filing claims and objections, which has also been simultaneously shifted by one week.

The EC took the decision to extend the timeline following internal discussions with the concerned Chief Electoral Officers. BLOs had earlier complained about the timeline of the SIR and said they were rushing to meet the deadline.

The poll body has faced flak following deaths and alleged suicides by BLOs in various states, amid claims that work pressure had led to such incidents. West Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress had accused the EC of having "blood on their hands" for the deaths, which were caused due to "stress of meeting tight deadlines".

The decision to tweak the schedule comes ahead of Winter Session of Parliament beginning Monday with Opposition parties making it clear that they will insist on a debate on SIR. Congress Rajya Sabha Deputy Leader Pramod Tiwari claimed that the extension of timeline was an indication that the EC knew timelines were not "practical". Tiwari said the poll panel should shed ego and hold the exercise as per the 2003 schedule when SIR was held last.

B'luru cops bet on best for smarter policing

B'luru cops, from Page 1

The officer explained that the cell seeks to address cases related to vulnerability of women, children, and senior citizens to domestic violence. "Other cases related to online exploitation and trafficking — necessitating a focused, victim-sensitive approach combining prevention, rapid response, trauma-informed support, and long-term rehabilitation — is what will drive the purpose of such an initiative," he added.

The official noted that Bengaluru's robust technology ecosystem and smart-city infrastructure offer a unique opportunity to incubate solutions that enhance preventive and predictive policing. "We are focusing on the evolving challenges of urban policing — whether it is reducing response time to incidents, meeting the rising expectations of citizens, or analysing social-media narratives that shape perceptions and influence public order. In several fast-growing areas, especially those with new real-estate developments, we are witnessing an increase in property related offences, investment frauds, forgery, cheating, and the use of fake documentation," he said.

The officer further explained that a one-size-fits-all approach will not work.

"Only a customised, geography-specific and domain-specific strategy can enable investigating officers to understand micro-level issues within each locality. This, in turn, strengthens evidence-based policing and enhances the quality of investigations through better evidence collection and documentation—ultimately leading to higher conviction rates," the officer explained.

India eyes jet, missile defence deal during Putin visit

Putin, from Page 1

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh said on Friday that India's defence cooperation with Russia is a long-standing one and the nation doesn't intend to stop anytime soon. India will continue to buy defence equipment from both Russia and the US, he said.

India has over 200 Russian fighter jets and several batteries of the S-400 defence shield, which were used during the four-day conflict with Pakistan in May.

India's military is short on fighters and had asked the government to buy more Russian made advanced fighter jets to plug the gap, people familiar with the matter said.

The proposal shows that Indian Air Force crew including pilots will find the transition to next-generation Russian jets easy, and state owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited is capable of servicing and maintaining the Russian-made fleet, the people said. Moreover, long-range missiles on the Su-57 jets will give the South Asian country added visual range capabilities, they said.

However, talks to buy new Russian military equipment are unlikely to conclude during Putin's visit, they said.

Rs 4,000-cr DPR to revive Bhadravati steel plant ready, says Kumaraswamy

SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS: Union Steel and Heavy Industries Minister H D Kumaraswamy said on Sunday that a detailed project report to revive the now-defunct Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel plant in Bhadravati has been prepared.

"The Steel Authority of India will invest Rs 4,000 to revive the VISL plant and keep it functional for next 50 years. The Plant will start production based on the demand from the railway and defence sectors. Two DPRs have been prepared - for exploring the market and to study new technology," the Union minister said. "The Union Cabinet had taken a decision to close the Bhadravati steel plant. I have urged the prime minister to reconsider the decision on closure. We are making sincere efforts to revive the plant and get it going. Efforts are underway to get a captive mine for the plant. I will give you complete details about the revival plan in January," he said.

The union minister on Saturday visited Sir M Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant in Bhadravathi city for the second time and held discussions with officials regarding the revival of the plant. He held discussions with senior officials and technical experts on the measures to revive the plant.

Addressing the protesting workers at the plant, he said, "This plant, built even before Independence by Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar and Sir M Visvesvaraya, has made a significant contribution to the nation's steel sector. Therefore, the government under PM Narendra Modi is actively considering all possibilities to revive it. Since becoming the steel minister, I have visited this plant for the second time. My visit itself is evidence of how seriously the Centre is taking the revival of the plant," he added.

Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood
Society For Karnataka German Multi Skill Development Centre
(A Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the KGMSDC, CoE Building, Kaushalya Bhavan Campus Bannerughatta Road, Bengaluru - 560 029. Ph.: 080-29649797, **Website**: kgmsdc.karnataka.

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from Outsource Human Resource Service providers for availing services of personnel on outsource basis to KGMSDC Society and KGTTI Centres. Ref. No.: **KGS/EST/OS/MPS/CR-54/2025-26.** Documents will be available from **01.12.2025.** Date of Pre-Bid Meeting: **11.12.2025.** Date of opening the Bid Documents: **05.01.2026.** Tender Documents can be obtained through tendering website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Prospective bidders can avail help from e-procurement Help Desk Nos. 91-8046010000, 91-8068948777.

Sd/- Member Secretrary, KGMSDC.

FORM B
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
(Regulation 12 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016)
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF SSJV PROJECTS PRIVATE LIMITED

Sr. No.	Particulars	Details
1.	Name of Corporate Debtor	SSJV PROJECTS PRIVATE LIMITED
2.	Date of Incorporation of Corporate Debtor	10th August 1998
3.	Authority under which Corporate Debtor is Incorporated/Registered	ROC Bengaluru - Incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956
4.	Corporate Identity Number (CIN) of Corporate Debtor	U45203KA1998PTC024063
5.	Address of the Registered Office and Principal Office (if any) of Corporate Debtor	21/6, Ground Floor, Craig Park Layout, M G Road Bengaluru- 560001 Karnataka
6.	Date of closure of insolvency resolution process	27th November 2025
7.	Liquidation commencement date of the corporate debtor	27th November 2025
8.	Name and registration number of the insolvency professional acting as Liquidator	Sri Ravindra Beleyur Reg No: IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P00189/2017-18/10368
9.	Address and e-mail of the liquidator, as registered with the Board	'Shreevathsa', 428, 19th B Cross, 3rd Block, Jayanagar Bengaluru - 560011 Tel: +91 8026540193 Email : ravi@beleyur.com
10.	Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the liquidator	'Shreevathsa', 428, 19th B Cross, 3rd Block, Jayanagar Bengaluru - 560011 Tele: +91 8026540193 Email: CIRP.SSJV@gmail.com
11.	Last date for submission of claims	**28th December 2025**

Notice is hereby given that the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench has ordered the commencement of the liquidation of SSJV Projects Private Limited on 27th November 2025.(Order uploaded on 28th November 2025)
The stakeholders of SSJV Projects Private Limited are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof, on or before 28th December 2025, to the liquidator at the address mentioned against item 10.
The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit the claims with the proof in person, by post or by electronic means.
Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.
In case a stakeholder does not submit the claims during the liquidation process, the claims submitted by such a stakeholder during the corporate insolvency resolution process under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016, shall be deemed to be submitted under Section 38.

Sd/-
(Ravindra Beleyur)
Liquidator of SSJV Projects Private Limited

Date: 29th November 2025
Place: Bengaluru

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

SHORT TERM INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites tenders from eligible contractors for the following works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Kaveri Bhavan K.G.Road, Bengaluru - 560 009

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender EMD (in Rs.)	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1	East-1	BWSSB/EE(E)-1/PB/ 3573/2025-26, Date: 25.11.2025	Rs.28,52,413/- Rs.57,050/-	15.12.2025 upto 4:00 PM	17.12.2025 after 5:00 PM
2			Rs.23,66,613/- Rs.50,000/-		
3			Rs.31,66,809/- Rs.63,340/-		
4		BWSSB/EE(E)-1/PB/ 3575/2025-26, Date: 25.11.2025	Rs. 62,16,565/- Rs.1,24,350/-	15.12.2025 upto 4:00 PM	17.12.2025 after 5:00 PM
5			Rs. 71,01,281/- Rs.1,42,026/-		
6			Rs.70,84,556/- Rs.1,14,700/-		
7			Rs.42,25,808/- Rs.84,550/-		
8		BWSSB/EE(E)-1/PB/3577/ 2025-26, Date: 25.11.2025 (Reserved for ST category)	Rs.32,91,321/- Rs.32,950/-	15.12.2025 upto 4:00 PM	17.12.2025 after 5:00 PM
9		BWSSB/EE(E)-1/PB/3577/ 2025-26, Date: 25.11.2025 (Reserved for 2A category)	Rs.60,26,459/- Rs.60,300/-		
10		BWSSB/EE(E)-1/PB/3577/ 2025-26, Date: 25.11.2025 (Reserved for SC category)	Rs.87,93,455/- Rs.87,935/-		
11		BWSSB/EE(E)-1/PB/3577/ 2025-26, Date: 25.11.2025 (Reserved for 2A category)	Rs.67,90,099/- Rs.68,000/-		

Sd/- **Executive Engineer (East-1)**

Office of the Chief Engineer, Kaveri (O&M), 8th Floor, Kaveri Bhavan K.G.Road, Bengaluru - 560 009

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender EMD (in Rs.)	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
12	Kaveri (O&M-4)	BWSSB/ EEK (O&M)-4/ PB/214/2025-26, Date: 26.11.2025	Rs.25.65 Lakhs Rs.51,500/-	15.12.2025 upto 4:00 PM	16.12.2025 at 4:05 PM

Sd/- **Executive Engineer Kaveri (O&M)-4**

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during the working hours.

DIPR/CP/4105/SA/2025-26

Directorate of Medical Education
BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002. Phone: 080-22870060 Fax: 080-22875798
E-mail: dmekarnataka@yahoo.com

No: ME/Tender/14/2025-26 **Date: 28-11-2025**

RE-E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

Tenders are invited for the **Purchase of Furnitures, Lab Equipments, Library Books for BSc Nursing Colleges at Yalburga, Jevargi and Yadgiri.** Tender Document and E.M.D., details can be viewed, downloaded & applied only through the KPP Portal. Interested tenderers have to register in the KPP Portal, details of which can be viewed in the Website: **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Commencement date for Uploading of Tenders Dt: 29-11-2025
Pre-Bid Meeting Dt: 12-12-2025 at 11.30 AM
Last date for Uploading the Tenders Dt: 29-12-2025 before 5.00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid Dt: 02-01-2026 at 11.30 AM

For further details contact **Director of Medical Education, BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002.**

Sd/- Director
DIPR/CP/4097/Adverto/2025-26 **Director of Medical Education, Bengaluru.**

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 24/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27–11–2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: **8443 ಕೇವಣಿ ವಂತಿಕೆ, 3054–03–102–0–01–200 ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ಸೇತುವೆಗಳ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, 3054–04–105–0–01–200 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸೇತುವೆಗಳ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, 2059–80–053–4–00–200 ವಿವಿಧ ಇಲಾಖಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ದುರಸ್ತಿ/ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, 2216–07–053–0–01–200–ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಸತಿ ಗೃಹಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಂಗ ವಸತಿ ಗೃಹಗಳ ದುರಸ್ತಿ/ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ** ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಒಟ್ಟು **10** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ವಹಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಅಥವಾ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಿರುವ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ (**Standard Tender Document KW -1, 2 & 4** ರಂತೆ) ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಲಗತ್ತಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 3ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹತೆಗಳಿದ್ದರೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ, ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. **6.00** ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಗರಿಷ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. **739.25** ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಆಗಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವ **10** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ (ಇಂ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **29245** (2ನೇ ಕರೆ), **29276** (2ನೇ ಕರೆ), **29247**(2ನೇ ಕರೆ), **29244** (2ನೇ ಕರೆ), **29251** (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) ದಿನಾಂಕ : **06.12.2025**, ಇಂ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **29877**, **28896** (2ನೇ ಕರೆ), **28850** ದಿನಾಂಕ : **08.12.2025**, ಇಂ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **28881** ದಿನಾಂಕ : **15.12.2025**, ಇಂ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **29006** ದಿನಾಂಕ : **18.12.2025** ರಂದು) ಸಂಜೆ **4:30** ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಷಯ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ತಿಳಿಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು

South Indians more prone to heart disease

Heart disease, from Page 1

-Researchers discovered thousands of harmful genetic mutations. This genetic landscape is strikingly different from what is typically seen in European and American populations.

Interestingly, Indian patients displayed fewer mutations in commonly established, frequently affected genes (MYBPC3 and MYH7), but showed greater variation in other genes like MYH6, which were previously considered less important. This unexpected genetic profile challenges long-held assumptions and underscores importance of Indian-specific cardiovascular medicine research. This not only reshapes understanding of HCM among Indians but also has crucial implications for the future of cardiac care in the country. It will allow clinicians to precisely diagnose risk for sudden cardiac deaths and emphasises need for comprehensive screening.

Dr Perundurai S Dhandapany, Associate Professor at BRIC-inStem and corresponding author of paper, said: "It opens the door to study other genetic conditions where Indians have unique genetic signatures and enables a better, inclusive screening programme for sudden cardiac deaths." This research is poised to be a game-changer for personalised medicine. By identifying unique genetic mutations, clinicians can now develop targeted treatments for South Indian patients, leading to better outcomes, he added. The study was published in the prestigious Journal of the American Heart Association.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Software launch: E-Swathu 2.0; CM Siddaramaiah, DyCM DK Shivakumar, Speaker UT Khader, Minister Priyank Kharge to attend; Organised by Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department; Banquet Hall, Vidhana Soudha; 11 am.

World AIDS Day: Jagadish G, Dr B Dinesh, Yatish R, G Mohan, Dr Suresh to attend; Organised by Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society; Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology and Research, Jayanagar; 11 am.

Human Rights Day Celebration: Ashok Hinchigeri, Selvaraj Arulnathan to attend; Indian Social Institute; 3 pm.

Flower exhibition: Organised by Horticulture Department; Band Stand, Cubbon Park; 6 am.

CUTURAL

Dance festival: YK Sandhya Sharma, Umesh CN, Padmaja Jayaram, Kamakshi, Gauri Vishwanath to attend; Organised by Natya Bhairavi Kala Kuteera; Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 4 pm.

Drama: 'Amirbai Karnataki'; Organised by Ranga Sanjivan Trust; Samucchaya Bhavana, Kalagrama, Mallattahalli; 6.30 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Special Lecture on Bhagavad Gita: BS Dwarkanath to attend; Organised by Malleswaram Brahmana Sabha Trust; Krishna Pravachana Mandir, Venugopalaswamy Temple, Malleswaram; 5 pm.

Sermon: 'Mahabharata'; Organised by Raghavendra Seva Samiti; Raghavendra Swamigala Math, Malleswaram; 7 pm.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	20.2°C
Minimum	18.4°C
Rainfall (as of 8:3am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	82%
Sunset (Dec 1)	5:51 pm
Sunrise (Dec 2)	6:25 am
Moonrise	1:52 pm
Moonset	1:31 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Bengaluru division holds railway users' meet

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru railway division held its Divisional Railway Users Consultative Committee (DRUCC) meeting recently.

Chaired by Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Operations) Parikshit Mohanpuria, the meeting reviewed passenger amenities, digital initiatives and infrastructure progress.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Krishna Chaitanya highlighted ongoing quadrupling and doubling works, and noted that 12.02% of unreserved tickets issued this financial year (up to October) were bought through the UTS Mobile App. QR-based ticketing is now enabled at 140 UTS and 55 PRS terminals.

The division also reported new freight traffic, including Honda two-wheelers, Toyota cars and TVS electric autos, generating between Rs 19 lakh and Rs 38 lakh per trip.

Members raised issues such as escalators, buggy services, platforms shelters at small stations and increased train services, a news release said.

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Provision of crèche and canteen based on worker count
Welfare benefits to migrant workers made portable
CBC 23101/13/0011/2526
Labour Reforms for Aatmanirbhar Bharat

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No eligible voter should be left out,
No ineligible voter should be added
1- Andaman and Nicobar Islands
2- Chhattisgarh
3- Goa
4- Gujarat
5- Kerala
6- Lakshadweep
7- Madhya Pradesh
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9-Rajasthan
10- Tamil Nadu
11- Uttar Pradesh
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Enter the name of the elector
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Select relative's name for a precise search; and select District/Assembly Constituency (AC)/Part for more precise search
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Download ECINet and click on Voter Registration Forms
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Check all the information in the preview and click on Submit Enumeration Form
E-Sign and download the receipt for successful submission of Enumeration Form
Important Dates
Period for filling out the Enumeration Form: 4 November - 11 December 2025
Publication of Draft Voter List: 16 December 2025
Duration of claims and objections: 16 December 2025 - 15 January 2026
Notice Phase: 16 December 2025 - 7 February 2026
Publication of Final Voter List: 14 February 2026
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Purchase maize, distilleries told

BENGALURU, DHNS: The government passed an order on Sunday, mandating distilleries to purchase maize from Dec 1.

Distilleries have been directed to purchase maize from farmers through Karnataka State Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. The order specifies names of five distilleries from three districts in North Karnataka and quantum of produce they must purchase.

"For distilleries producing maize from Ethanol, 44,892 tonnes of maize are needed in the first quarter," the order says.

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Alice Colaco
Mother of Dr Ronald Colaco
Forever in our hearts
May the Almighty God grant Eternal rest to her departed soul and grant strength and courage to the family
In fond remembrance
Srivari Foundation, Bengaluru.

Banduri canal diversion plan an ecological disaster, says report

It flags desertification, disruption of rain patterns

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

The proposed Banduri nala diversion project, part of the Mahadayi river diversion project is untenable in the long term and can open up serious possibilities of advancing the desertification process of north Karnataka and Malaprabha basin, says a report by Save North Karnataka Citizens' Alliance.

'A comprehensive report on Banduri nala project and desertification of North Karnataka' - prepared by scientists, researchers and experts from Belagavi, Dharwad, Gadag, Bengaluru, Pune, Delhi, Hyderabad and other parts of the country, says the project violates environmental laws like Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and Environment Protection Act, 1986.

The report highlights that water awarded for diversion (2.18 tmc ft of water) at the cost of irreparable damage to forest, irreversible ecological losses and burden on the state exchequer overweighs the cost to benefit ratio.

The central water commission has given its technical clearance to the modified detailed project report (DPR) submitted by the Karnataka government to draw 3.9 tmc ft of water, out of which 2.18 tmc ft of water needs to be lifted from Banduri nala and 1.72 tmc ft from Kalasa nala.

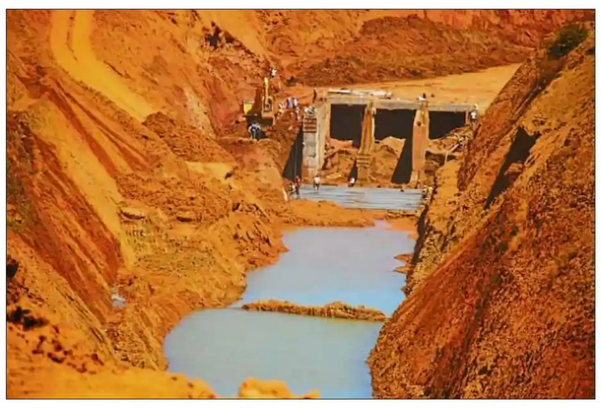
Final nod awaited

As the Goa government has approached the Supreme Court challenging the verdict of the Mahadayi water dispute tribunal, the apex court has asked Karnataka to get all necessary clearances before proceeding. Karnataka is awaiting final approval under the Forest Protection Act from the union government.

The report has been prepared based on government data and scientific analysis of research works of institutions like Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, IIT-Bombay, ISRO, IMD, MoEF&CC, ATREE, CEC, BARC (Punjab), Sacon, WRI and KSNDMA.

The report says there are scientific studies to show that stream diversions in forested headwater catchments have cascading effects such as forest degradation, impact on water cycle, desertification, microclimate change and social-economic disruption.

The report claims that diversion of Banduri nala could reduce evapotranspiration (decreased cloud formation and reduced precipitation), resulting in land drier effect and disruption of rainfall patterns.



Work undertaken by Karnataka years ago as part of the Mahadayi water project, which is opposed by Goa.

Streams in danger

Eminent scientists, forest officials, hydrologists and others, who have co-authored the report, say that in the long term, it could result in perennial streams becoming seasonal.

"Agriculture systems can collapse, reduce water quality and increase temperature," says the report.

Quoting ISRO's 2021 report —Desertification and land degradation, Atlas—Alliance says Karnataka already ranks fifth nationally under significant land degradation (6.96 million ha of land) and diversion of land for Banduri project could risk further forest degradation and irreversible ecological decline.

"Reaching of freshwater of Mahadayi to Zuari estuaries in Goa is crucial for preventing saline intrusion from Arabian Sea and sustaining brackish-water ecosystems. Water diversion will raise salinity at estuaries, have cascading impact on monsoon and cause regional climate destabilization," it says.

Terming the project 'another Yettinahole in the making', experts suggest that there are several cost-effective and ecologically viable alternatives to river diversion.

Experts bat for exploring cheaper alternatives

"Desilting Renukasagar reservoir on Malaprabha river will make available six tmc ft of water at a fractional cost (around Rs 50 crore-Rs 100 crore) of the river diversion project. To divert 2.18 tmc ft of water, the state is expected to spend Rs 800 crore-Rs 1,000 crore," the report says.

Reclaiming and restoring the flow of Bennihalla (another stream in Dharwad) will provide nearly three tmc ft of water, it says.

The Malaprabha basin faces acute water crisis exacerbated by unsustainable sugarcane cultivation which consumes 137 tmc ft of water annually, though the basin's water availability for agriculture is just 48 tmc ft.

The citizens' alliance also highlighted that the project was being pushed as a drinking water project for parts of North Karnataka to avoid legal complications and ease of getting permission.

The DPR of Kalasa-Banduri project says it will provide water to parched areas of Gadag, Bagalkot, Dharwad and Belagavi districts.

However, a project proposal from Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development And Finance Corporation, which intends to supply drinking water to the same villages in these districts, says there is sufficient water in Malaprabha reservoir to meet the drinking water needs till 2041.

Tomato prices skyrocket as excess rains hit supply; onion prices crash

While crop loss in Karnataka has brought down the tomato yield, the bad rains in Maharashtra has meant that a lot of produce from Karnataka is also being sent to meet the demand in North India. DH FILE PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

Arrivals at Kolar APMC market down by 40%

BENGALURU, DHNS

The price of tomatoes has skyrocketed and is expected to soon touch Rs 100 per kg in the retail market. Excessive rains have damaged the crop, resulting in a low yield and high demand scenario, farmers said.

"This year, owing to the rains, the yield was poor. This along with virus attacks has reduced the yield drastically while the demand has remained high. Hence the prices have shot up," said Lakshman Gowda, a tomato farmer from Kolar.

Dealers at the Kolar Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) said that the arrival of tomatoes to the market had reduced by as much as 40%.

"At the Kolar APMC, we used to receive close to 3,500 tonnes of tomatoes, and now we receive only about 2,000 tonnes a day. While crop loss in Karnataka has brought down the yield, the bad rains in Maharashtra has meant that a lot of produce from Karnataka is also being sent to meet the demand in North India. Hence the crisis," explained C M R Srinath, a dealer at the Kolar APMC market.

On the other hand, the price of onion has plummeted and is available for as low as Rs 5 in the wholesale market. Dealers at the Yeshwantpur APMC market said that the moist weather conditions and rains had damaged the onions and as a result, only low quality onions were available. As a result, the prices have remained low, they said.

"Of the onions coming to the market, only about 10% is good and the rest is of poor quality. The rains damaged the crops bringing the yield down and now the moist weather conditions have meant that many are rotting even during transportation. Since good quality onion is not available, the price has remained low," said Ravi Shankar from the Yeshwantpur APMC yard.

The situation is expected to remain so for at least the next two months after which some relief is expected.

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This is to inform the general public that our client **Mrs. Viraj Vijay Divecha,** W/o Vijay Satish Divecha, D/o late Shirish Bapubhai Desai, residing at No.44, Sankey Court, 4th Floor, 193 Sankey Road, Sadashiv nagar, Bangalore - 560080, has misplaced the original Sale Deed bearing Document No.1648/1995-1996, Pages 140 to 150, Volume 4233, Book-1, registered on 24/06/1996, in the office Sub registrar Gandhinagar, Bangalore, in respect of residential apartment No. 44, Sankey Court, 4th Floor, 193 Sankey Road, Sadashivnagar, Bangalore - 560080. In this regard she has already filed a police complaint before the KSP Portal (E-Lost) on 28/11/2025.
If anyone has come into possession of the said document, the same may be informed or handed over to her at the address stated above or to the undersigned.
Sd/- M. Arun Ponappa,
Advocate
2nd Floor, Kasturi Complex, No. 76, Mission Road, Bangalore- 560 027
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PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Arjun Joseph,** residing at No.236, 2nd Cross, Sharadhamma Layout, Nandidurga Road, Bengaluru-560046, have changed my name to **ARJUN MAHASASTA INDRA** & have converted from Christian to Hindu (Vaishnava Sect) vide affidavit dated 29.11.2025 before notary S.I. Balaguru, Bengaluru.

Dialects like Arebhashe enriched Kannada: CM

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Sunday that dialects like 'Arebhashe' — predominantly spoken in Kodagu — had enriched Kannada, and assured to grant Rs 50 lakh for the community.

"If Kannada is the basis for the state's identity, regional languages like Arebhashe have enriched it," Siddaramaiah said, participating in an award presentation ceremony organised by the Karnataka Arebhashe Academy, Madikeri.

The chief minister pointed out that the Arebhashe Gowdas predominantly lived in Kodagu and Dakshina Kannada districts, and that their population exceeded 3 lakh.

Noting that Arebhashe was a mixture of Kannada and Konkani, the chief minister explained that the language was called Arebhashe since some words were "missing".

"There are 230 small languages in Karnataka. They all originated from Kannada itself. Let the academy work towards preserving Arebhashe. Previously, Rs 1 crore was provided to the Nadagowda community in Bhagamandala. We will also satisfy their current demand for Rs 50 lakh. There's a proposal before the next Cabinet to grant land in Madikeri to Arebhashe Gowdas. That will also be cleared".

Speaking at the event, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said: "Those who forget history cannot create history. You must transfer culture, thoughts and practices of the Arebhashe community to the next generation".

Explaining that there were "over 7,000 languages in the world," he said: "Of that, 2,845 languages have become extinct. You must ensure that Arebhashe doesn't disappear at any cost".

Activists slam exemption to landfills from eco clearance

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Union government's move to amend the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification to exempt Common Municipal Solid Waste Management Facilities (CMSWMF), including landfills, besides leading to a back-door exemption to waste-to-energy (WTE) plants, has raised the hackles of activists.

The draft gazette notification dated October 3 proposes to remove section 7(i) of the EIA Notification, which mandates several conditions for CMSWMF.

The conditions include prior environmental clearance (EC) given only after strict assessment of the impact of such a facility on the surrounding environment - a basic precautionary principle.

CMSWMF plants include landfills, municipal bio-methanation plants as well as residual-derived fuel (RDF) plants. Landfills are highly polluting entities due to the leachate leaking into the surface and groundwater, besides dangerous methane emissions.

If the draft notification is finalised, landfills and other waste management plants will be permitted at all places, without an environmental impact assessment study being undertaken. Waste processing plants and landfills in Benglauru have a record of leading to local air and water pollution, despite strict laws. The exemption will make it easy to brush such violations under the carpet. Moreover, the exemption also precludes the need for public consultation.

In the notification, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has cited the strictures notified under two laws preventing air and water pollution and a recommendation by an expert advisory committee. The committee had, in fact, recommended that only CMSWMF without landfills be exempted. However, the ministry cited the vital role provided by the Essential Environment Service (EES) industries to provide a blanket exemption.

Backdoor exemption

While the WTE plants below 15 MW capacity were exempted through an office memorandum in 2017, the draft notification refers to the expert committee exempting 'blue category' industries from these conditions, including the requirement to obtain EC. The 'blue' category, introduced by the Central Pollution Control Board, includes WTE industries of all capacities.

Conservationists noted that the expert committee's recommendation leaves space for further dilution of the rules. WTE plants above 15 MW are categorised under section 1(d) of the EIA notification. "Instead of lawfully amending Item 1(d) — the only statutory pathway to exempt WTE plants above 15 MW — the draft notification craftily manufactures a backdoor EC exemption by invoking the Blue Category of EES. This backdoor exemption is a deliberate attempt to sidestep statutory framework, and is bad in law, both in intent and effect," conservationist Nirmala Gowda noted.

She cited a study showing that a WTE plant in Delhi's Okhla neighbourhood exposed over 10 lakh people to deadly pollutants like dioxins and heavy metals like cadmium, arsenic, lead and cobalt. "Because of this (pollution), nobody wants such facilities in their backyard. Now, with the EC exemption, communities will remain in the dark about such facilities coming up in their localities till bulldozers arrive," she said.

WINTER VISITORS

Bar-headed geese spotted in Magadi lake at Magadi village of Gadag district. They migrate from Mongolia during winter for food. DH PHOTO/SATISH BADIGER

The goods tempo which toppled killing five persons and injuring seven on NH-66 near Kotalkatte of Udupi district on Sunday.

5 killed, 7 injured as goods tempo turns turtle in Kaup

UDUPI, DHNS: Five migrant labourers lost their lives and seven sustained serious injuries after a goods tempo turned turtle on National Highway 66 near Kotalkatte in Uliyar Goli village in Kaup on Sunday.

According to the police, a goods tempo, which was transporting iron materials used for wedding decorations, toppled after the driver lost control while overtaking a bus. The vehicle reportedly climbed onto the road divider, crossed into the service road on the opposite side, and overturned, crushing several workers who were travelling in the rear portion amid the heavy iron equipment.

The deceased have been identified as Pappu Ravidas (28), Harish (27) — both from Assam, Gapunath (50) from Tripura, and Kamal and Sumaresh, all from West Bengal. All of them were migrant labourers living in rented houses in Kaup.

The injured include tempo driver Ranjith Amin (33) of Kotalkatte, Ganesh Bahadur Rai (36) of Assam and Prabhas Rai (26), Gopal Boumik (16), Suraj Dolai (16), and Subrado (20) of West Bengal. They were immediately shifted by locals to private hospitals in Udupi. Doctors said some of the injured are in critical condition.

Kaup MLA Gurme Suresh Shetty, former minister Vinay Kumar Sorake, and former MLA Lalaji R Mendon visited the hospitals to enquire about the condition of the injured workers.

District in charge minister Laxmi Hebbalkar in her X handle condoled the deaths.

'Pitch'ed battle in Nagarahole: Adivasis flay activists for misleading govt

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Adivasi communities from Nagarahole Tiger Reserve slammed the environment activists for misleading the state government by portraying a tribal rights event organised at Nanachi gate as a cricket match and falsely accusing them of cutting trees.

Based on complaints, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre had directed officials to inquire and submit a report in 7 days on the alleged clearing of several trees to play a cricket match at Nanachi gate, in the core area of the tiger reserve.

The minister's letter did not name the source but cited current satellite photos compared with those dating to 2011 as a reason for the inquiry.

In a letter addressed to the minister, the Federation of Nagarahole Adivasi Forest Rights Committees said the entire move was part of the decades-long violation of their rights. "We have been living in harmony with these forests for generations. Nobody has consulted us while declaring our habitat as a tiger reserve, its core and buffer areas. Despite the notification of the Forest Rights Act, our individual and community rights have been violated," the letter said.

The letter stated that on November 19, adivasis celebrated the Birsa Munda day to spread awareness on the struggle for tribal identity and rights.

"As part of the event, we had also organised a cricket tournament for adivasi youths at Belekovu near Nanachi gate. This is the area where we have held events for years. Except for clearing lantana as per the forest department's programmes," the letter said.

JA Shivu, president of the Karadikallu Forest Rights Committee said not a single tree has been harmed in the area. "Forest staffers and their children have observed and participated in some of these events over the years. Everyone knows that except for removal of lantana, trees have not been cut. Still, there is a deliberate attempt to portray us as violators," Shivu told *DH*.

Activist Joseph Hoover said that adivasis have been playing cricket in the patch for over a decade now. "They are angry that the government has stopped their annual tournament but did not object when Bandipur Tiger Reserve (then) field director S Prabhakaran prepared a concrete (pitch) with nets inside the core area of Bandipur," he said.

Speaking to *DH*, Shivu said he was shocked after seeing the images of the cricket pitch. "How can they deny the same rights to us even though they know that we have not damaged the environment in any way," he asked.

PM unveils vision 2047 policing roadmap

'Urgent need to transform public perception of police'

RANCHI, PTI

REFORM PUSH

- PM Modi calls for enhanced professionalism, sensitivity and responsiveness to shape polcing for Viksit Bharat
- Transform public perception, especially among youth
- Strenghthen urban and tourist policing and rail awareness of new criminal laws
- Enhance coastal, internal security with technology-driven, collective efforts

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday unveiled a comprehensive 'Roadmap for Policing towards Vision 2047', urging the nation's top police officials to enhance professionalism, sensitivity, and responsiveness to transform public perception and meet the goals of a 'Viksit Bharat'.

Addressing the 60th All India Conference of Directors General/Inspectors General of Police here, Modi urged police leadership to realign their style of policing to meet the aspirations of a developing nation on the path to becoming a Viksit Bharat.

The conference was themed 'Viksit Bharat: Security Dimensions'. There is an urgent need to transform public perception of the police, particularly among the youth, by enhancing professionalism, sensitivity, and responsiveness, the prime minister said at the gathering of the top brass of police and paramilitary forces.

The conference was attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, among others. The DGPs and IGPs from all states and Union Territories, as well as heads of CAPFs and Central Police Organisations, participated physically, while more than 700 officers of various ranks joined virtually from across the country.

The PM also highlighted the need to strengthen urban policing, reinvigorate tourist police, and significantly increase public awareness regarding the three criminal laws Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam and Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, which replaced the colonial-era Indian Penal Code, Indian Evidence Act and Code of Criminal Procedure, respectively.

Modi also issued several key directives, emphasising a collective approach to tackling coastal and internal security, utilising new technology and raising awareness about judicial reforms.

Delhi blast echoes in Kashmir's mosques & madrasas

Police seek enrolment logs, visitor records from Valley's religious institutions

RED FORT TO SRINAGAR

- Religious institutions become focal points of sweeping security exercise
- Mosques, madrasas asked to share student lists, curricula and donation details
- Authorities call it a necessary precaution against cross-regional mobilisation

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

When the November 10 blast outside Red Fort in New Delhi reverberated through headlines, few beyond the national capital likely imagined its aftershocks travelling as far as the mosques and madrasas of Srinagar.

Yet for the past week, those very institutions — usually quiet centres of worship and community life—have become focal points for a security exercise that feels foreign to outsiders but intimately familiar to Kashmiris.

In neighbourhoods across the city, management committees that ordinarily handle routine affairs, like arranging winter firewood or maintaining courtyard lights, have been asked to open their ledgers, share lists of students, track visiting scholars and outline donation records.

Police teams from CID and district intelligence units have visited mosque after mosque; seminaries across Srinagar and other parts of the Valley have been asked to submit enrolment logs, records of out-of-district boarders and guest-scholar stay-overs, and even copies of curricula taught within.

Unsettling demands

To many clerics, the demand for such detailed documentation is not just heavy-handed but deeply unsettling. One senior madrasa official recalled inspections during the 1990s—times of open conflict—when mosques and seminaries were searched, weapons seized, and people arrested.

But in the last two decades, such visits were rare and were always tied to specific leads. What has changed now, they say, is the absence of any immediate cause in Kashmir itself: a blast hundreds of kilometres away triggered a blanket sweep.

Residents, especially parents of students, greet police vehicles outside seminaries with anxiety. Neighbourhood chatter quickly shifts to fear. Parents demand reassurances. A door-to-door culture of trust built over generations begins to feel fragile, as unfamiliar forms and sudden inquiries replace the humdrum rhythms of community life.

'Necessary precaution'

Security officials describe the exercise as a necessary precaution.

The post-blast investigations, they argue, show cross-regional patterns and possible networks that rely on remote mobilisation. They maintain that updating records and documenting religious-institution data is a way to ensure that no void remains for exploitation.

But for Kashmiris accustomed to treating mosques and madrasas as places of sanctuary and solace, the line between vigilance and intrusion is uncomfortably thin. The fear now is that this temporary scrutiny may harden into a long-term modality of suspicion, transforming spaces of faith into spaces under surveillance.

Snow delay hits tourism in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, DHNS

Boats line up along the shore of Dal Lake in Srinagar on Sunday. The city recorded a minimum temperature of -4.4 degrees Celsius on Saturday night. PTI

As November ends without a flake of snow, Kashmir's tourism industry is anxiously looking to December, a month that can make or break winter earnings.

Stakeholders say only heavy snowfall in the first half of the month can revive tourist footfall, which slowed after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack and took another hit following the recent Delhi blast.

The anxiety is real across Gulmarg, Pahalgam, and Sonamarg, where hotels, guides, ponywalas, and transporters rely on the year-end rush of visitors. "Everything now depends on snowfall," said a Gulmarg hotelier. "If it comes early, tourists will return. If it's delayed, we may lose the entire winter season."

Tourism numbers fell sharply after the Pahalgam attack, in which 25 people were killed. Although the Valley began to show signs of a slow recovery by mid-October, the November 10 Delhi blast triggered fresh cancellations.

"People had just started rebooking for November and December when the blast triggered fresh fears," said a Srinagar-based travel agent. "Cancellations spiked again, especially among families."

The downturn came after Kashmir's tourism had overcome two of the harshest disruptions in recent memory.

The months-long lockdown after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 devastated the sector, wiping out an entire season. Then came the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, grounding flights and shutting hotels.

Yet, Kashmir saw an unexpected surge by 2022 that broke all previous arrival records, offering a lifeline to thousands of people dependent on tourism. That hard-won momentum is now at risk.

With hotel occupancy dipping and adventure-tour operators reporting negligible bookings for winter sports, the industry is united in hoping for one thing: snow — and soon. "Snowfall is the biggest advertisement for Kashmir," said a Tourism Department official. "Once images of Gulmarg under snow appear on social media, the entire narrative changes. Tourists forget fear and remember beauty."

For many in the Valley's tourism chain, from shikarawalas on Dal Lake to taxi drivers on the Srinagar–Gulmarg route, the stakes could not be higher. A timely snowfall in early December, they say, can still turn the season around. But if the skies stay dry for long, the Valley's winter economy may face another long, difficult stretch.

Cyclone Ditwah weakens into deep depression

CHENNAI, PTI: Cyclone Ditwah got weakened into a deep depression, and the weather system would be centred over the southwest Bay of Bengal within a minimum distance of 20 km from the coasts of North Tamil Nadu and Puducherry by the morning of December 1, the Regional Meteorological Centre said.

In an update, the weather office said Cyclone Ditwah is located about 80 km east of Cuddalore, 130 km northeast of Karaikal, 90 km east southeast of Puducherry, 180 km northeast of Vedaranyam and 140 km southeast of Chennai.

"The minimum distance of the centre of the cyclone from the north Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coasts is about 80 km. It is very likely to move nearly northwards parallel to the North Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coasts and weaken into a depression around the morning of tomorrow (December 1)" the bulletin issued by the Met office late on Sunday night said.

"The cyclone is moving at a speed of 5 kmph, and the system would be centred over the southwest Bay of Bengal within a minimum distance of 40 km and 20 km from the north Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coastline by the morning of tomorrow, December 1," the bulletin said.

The system is being monitored by the Doppler Weather Radars (DWRs) at Karaikal and Chennai, it added.

Private weather bloggers said Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Chennai, Chengalpattu and Ranipet districts may have some rains as the cyclone moves closer to Chennai later at night.

"Some clouding is expected to come back at night to tomorrow morning. The cyclone may bring in some more rains before fizzling out in open sea," they said.

Earlier, sharp showers triggered by the cyclone continued to lash several parts of Tamil Nadu, while three people have been killed in rain-related deaths, the state government said.

With heavy rainfall pounding Cauvery delta districts in the state, Ramanathapuram and Nagapattinam districts bore the brunt.

Normal life continued to be affected in Rameswaram and Nagapattinam as heavy rainfall inundated several low-lying areas.

Bengal parties slam renaming of Raj Bhavan

KOLKATA, PTI: A day after West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose renamed Raj Bhavan as Lok Bhavan following the Centre's directive, political parties on Sunday questioned the need to continue with the gubernatorial system so many years after Independence.

Bose and the BJP defended the move, asserting that 'Rajtantra' (monarchy) no longer exists in India and people are supreme in 'Loktantra' (democracy).

According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on November 25, Raj Niwases—residences of lieutenant governors in Union Territories—and Raj Bhavans across the country are to be renamed Lok Niwases and Lok Bhavans, respectively.

On Saturday, Bose officially renamed the Raj Bhavan in Kolkata as Lok Bhavan.

Opposition parties criticised the Centre for the move and suggested, in jest, that now governors should also be elected, in consistency with the new name of their houses.

Senior Congress leader Pradip Bhattacharjee said the Raj Bhavan and the Rajyapal (Governor) are synonymous.

"The pertinent question is if the Raj Bhavan is Lok Bhavan, meaning the People's Bhavan, then why shouldn't the Governor be an elected one, like the President. The Governor, or if he is now called the Loknayak, should be elected through voting by members of the state assembly," he said.

"Why has this initiative been launched first in West Bengal, when the notification was meant for the whole country? Is this being done with the 2026 elections in mind? Does the Governor intend to run a parallel administration?" TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh asked.

Nuclear ties: Modi, Putin to look beyond Kudankulam

NEW DELHI, DHNS

PM Modi with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

ATOMIC ENERGY COOPERATION

- Talks likely on Small Modular Reactors and nuclear fuel cycle during Putin's India visit
- First two units of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant operational; third unit in safety tests
- Moscow keen on two additional VVER-1200 reactors
- Russia pressing for new nuclear plant in India

The forthcoming meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin will focus on expanding bilateral cooperation in atomic energy, taking it beyond the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP) to include collaboration on Small Modular Reactors and the nuclear fuel cycle.

Putin will arrive in New Delhi on Thursday for a two-day visit. He will hold the 23rd annual India-Russia summit with Modi, in addition to meeting President Droupadi Murmu.

Nuclear energy cooperation is expected to top the summit agenda. The two sides will review progress at the KNPP in Tamil Nadu — the flagship project of India-Russia collaboration in atomic power. The plant's first and second units, equipped with Russian VVER-1000 pressurised water reactors, began commercial operations in 2014 and 2017, respectively.

The third unit is currently undergoing pre-startup operations and preparing for safety tests, according to Rosatom, Russia's state-owned atomic energy corporation.

A source in New Delhi said India would ask Russia to expedite construction and installation work, as well as the delivery of equipment for the fourth unit.

When Modi and Putin met in Moscow for the 22nd annual summit in July 2024, the two sides agreed to adhere to the schedule for the remaining units of the KNPP, including timelines for the delivery of supplies.

The KNPP is planned to have six VVER-1000 reactors, each with an installed capacity of 1,000 MWe.

Construction of the fifth and sixth units will be reviewed during the New Delhi summit this week, the source told *DH*.

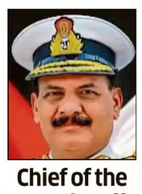
Moscow is also keen to discuss with New Delhi a pending proposal for two additional KNPP units equipped with VVER-1200 reactors.

Second site

With the Modi government announcing a Nuclear Energy Mission in the Union Budget 2025-26, Russia has been pressing for a second site in India to develop another nuclear power plant. The issue is expected to come up during the Modi-Putin summit, where the two sides are also likely to explore cooperation on Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).

Navy chief flags rising non-traditional threats

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi

Threats that were once considered "low end" now employ tactics and unleash firepower associated only with states, necessitating that all Indian warships be ready for combat at all times, said Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral Dinesh Tripathi on Sunday.

"The non-traditional threat spectrum now involves weapons, tactics, and intent that mirror state-level conflicts. This necessitates all Indian units proceeding to sea to be outfitted for combat to the extent feasible while being prepared for constabulary and marine roles," he said, delivering the Admiral J G Nadkarni Memorial Lecture in Pune.

Also, since conflicts happen nowadays without prior notice, the need is to be in a constant-ready paradigm, he explained.

"Operation Sindoor demonstrated the Indian Navy's constant-readiness posture, wherein the swift deployment of our platforms, conduct of multiple weapon firings within 96 hours, aggressive manoeuvring, and pressure of the presence of the Carrier Battle Group ensured that the Pakistan Navy remained close to their coast or within their harbours," he said.

With the dynamics of the Indo-Pacific region turning increasingly complex, Admiral Tripathi said emerging actors were reshaping the balance while established powers were striving to preserve it, resulting in the outlines of a new international order taking form.

The Indo-Pacific region was becoming an increasingly congested and contested strategic arena, in which China, Japan, Gulf states, the US, and Europe were competing for access and influence alongside India.

On the technology front, the Navy Chief said, the autonomous naval vessel market — valued at about $1.65 billion in 2024 — was set to grow 10% annually, and up to 17% of global shipping might be autonomous by 2040. "Unmanned systems are shifting from experimental tools to core naval assets, driven by artificial intelligence (AI), which is enabling faster 'machine-speed' warfare," he said.

RARE FLORA

In Asia's first, Ice-Age thorny bamboo fossil found in Manipur

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

In what may further enrich Asia's botanical history, researchers have stumbled upon fossils of an Ice-Age thorny bamboo stem — dating back 37,000 years — in the silt-rich deposits of a river in Manipur.

This, according to the research team, is the first such record of thorny bamboo fossils in Asia, and could fill the gap in the global fossil records of thorny bamboos.

"The discovery is remarkable for capturing fragile details like thorn scars — features that almost never fossilise. The finding also highlights the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot as a crucial refugium during the Ice Age," said a paper published by the team from the Lucknow-based Birbal Sahni Institution of Palaeosciences, an institution under the Central government's Department of Science and Technology (DST).

"While colder and drier climates eliminated bamboo from places such as Europe, the warm and humid conditions of Northeast India allowed it to persist," it added.

The stem of the bamboo, with marks of long-vanished thorns, was found inside deposits of the Chirang river at the Senjam-Chirang village in the Imphal West district, about 20 km west of Manipur's capital Imphal.

"Bamboo fossils are extremely rare because their hollow stems and fibrous tissues decay rapidly, leaving little trace in the geological record. Scientists usually understood bamboo defences mainly by comparing modern species with their habitats," said the paper.

The development of spines, prickles, and thorns — collectively known as spinescence — is an adaptive trait that serves as a physical defence mechanism against vertebrate herbivores.

The findings were published in the Journal Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology recently. H Bhatia, P Kumari, N H Singh, and G Srivastava were part of the research team.

Bamboo significance

Within the Poaceae family, bamboos play a critical ecological and socio-economic role, thriving primarily in tropical and subtropical regions.

Major bamboo populations are found in East and Southeast Asia, as well as on the islands of the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

'Verdict must not be tossed out with change of judge'

NEW DELHI, PTI: Verdicts should not be "tossed out" merely because the judges who authored them have changed or demitted office, Supreme Court judge Justice BV Nagarathna said, as she flagged her concern over recent instances of judgements being overturned by succeeding benches of the apex court.

Justice Nagarathna

She was speaking at the International Convention on the Independence of the Judiciary at the OP Jindal Global University in Haryana's Sonipat on Saturday.

Justice Nagarathna said an evolved understanding of judicial independence warrants the "assurance by our system of laws" that a judgement once rendered by a judge will hold its anchor in time, for it is written in "ink and not in sand."

"It is a duty of the many participants of the legal fraternity and governance framework to respect a judgement for what it is, raise objections only in accordance with traditions embedded in law, and not attempt to toss it out solely because the faces have changed," she said.

Earlier this month, the top court recalled its order passed in May that had barred retrospective environmental clearances for development projects.

On November 28, SC allowed a review petition of a builders' association and lifted the ban on ex post facto environmental clearances for different projects.

Justice Nagarathna pointed out that the independence of the judiciary is protected not only through the judgements judges write but also through their personal conduct.

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DECCAN HERALD
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Claim on Bengaluru forest land appalling

The prospect of Bengaluru losing 517 acres of pristine reserved forest in south Kengeri is alarming, not just because of its staggering commercial value (estimated at between Rs 27,000 crore and Rs 35,000 crore), but also because of what it reveals about the gaps in administrative vigilance. A writ petition filed by one M B Nemana Gowda on August 13 was disposed of within just 17 days by the Karnataka High Court, culminating in an order directing the revenue authorities to enter his name in the records. The area in question has mostly been part of the Badamanavarte Kaval State Forest since 1935. That the forest department learnt of this only two days before the deadline to appeal is deeply troubling. From the facts of the case, it appears that the government's own legal machinery has clearly failed the state. The additional advocate general has admitted he could not verify the contents of the petition before the matter was disposed of. His initial view that it was not a fit case for appeal, later reversed, only reinforces the impression of inadequate preparation and poor coordination. When forest land of such ecological and financial significance is at stake, a slipshod response is simply unacceptable.

Govt must act quickly to counter a private individual's move on 517 acres in Kengeri

Equally concerning is the role of the revenue department. This is not the first time that it has worked at cross-purposes with the forest department, enabling vested interests to encroach on protected land. The pattern is depressingly familiar: questionable documents, claims under old Inam Abolition provisions, unexplained mutations, and sudden entries in records surfacing after decades. The Chikkamagaluru and Hassan cases involving the same petitioner may be unrelated to the Bengaluru claim, but they underscore a broader propensity for exploiting administrative loopholes.

This only suggests that the system is being gamed from within. Law Minister H K Patil, Revenue Minister C Krishna Byregowda and Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre must take this episode seriously. The state should constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to examine how such a massive tract of reserved forest became vulnerable to a private claim, and that too without the knowledge of the very department entrusted with protecting it. For now, the government must urgently move the High Court, seeking a stay on the order, and ensure that the appeal is filed without delay. The loss of 517 acres of forest would be irreparable— ecologically, legally and morally. The state cannot afford to let administrative lethargy and internal collusion carve away its natural assets. This case must become a turning point, not another chapter in the long saga of Karnataka's vanishing forests.

TB fight scorecard: Good, can do better

India has done well in its fight against tuberculosis, but it must do more to get its most serious health challenge under control, going by the Global Tuberculosis Report 2025, released by the World Health Organisation (WHO). While the country registered the world's highest decline rate in the incidence of the disease, it bears the highest burden at 25%. The country reduced incidence from 237 per lakh population in 2015 to 187 per lakh population in 2024. The average annual decline is nearly 3%. The rate of diagnosis is higher, and the coverage of treatment better. The mortality rate has decreased from 28 per lakh population in 2015 to 21 per lakh population in 2024. Along with these positives, the negatives need to be taken into account. Tuberculosis remains the biggest infectious killer in the country, accounting for about five lakh deaths annually, which is about a third of the global toll.

India's share in the global incidence of multi-drug resistant (MDR-TB) cases is worse than in the case of ordinary TB. The country accounts for about 32% of the global total. This is a serious problem because the success of treatment in MDR-TB cases is lower, and the fatalities could be higher. The global target for elimination of TB is 2030 but India had advanced it to 2025. This was an unrealistic target, certain to be missed as it was not supported by adequate strategies. The National Strategic Plan (2017-2025) envisaged effective action in four areas—detection, treatment, prevention and strengthening of the health system. There is so much more to be done in all these areas.

India registers the highest decline in incidence, but still bears a third of the world's burden

Detection of cases has greatly improved, but the country reports one lakh 'missing' cases, which account for the highest number of unreported cases in the world. The treatment success rate is higher than the world average. New technologies such as portable diagnostic tools and artificial intelligence (AI) have been deployed, and they are showing results. The country diagnosed over 26 lakh cases in 2024, which is the highest ever. The biggest challenge in the treatment of TB is that it has socio-economic roots. Low income and poor nutrition are contributing factors and they must be addressed as part of the treatment. Nutrition is a part of the treatment regimen, but a large number of undetected cases are from the low income groups. More sustained and effective steps are necessary to make the National TB Elimination Programme a success and achieve the target at the earliest.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONCERNS

The Prez reference order is a setback

The five-judge bench's decision has dealt a big blow to the judicial philosophy on gubernatorial accountability evolved by the top court

KALEESWARAM RAJ

The unanimous decision of the five-judge bench that answered the Presidential reference on the bills passed by state legislatures has been criticised for its indulgence to possible gubernatorial and Presidential arbitrariness.

The top court also opined that the discharge of the governor's function under Article 200 of the Constitution is a forbidden zone for the court's adjudicative process.

This leads to genuine concerns about politically motivated gubernatorial actions and omissions going practically unchecked. The notion of a deemed assent, which was developed in the Tamil Nadu case by a two-judge bench, was entirely discarded by the five-judge bench.

When many of the questions now asked were decided earlier in the court's adjudicatory jurisdiction, a contrary advice was quite strange and uncalled for.

These apart, the advisory jurisdiction invoked by the court poses serious questions about 'the politics of the judiciary', to use the title of J A G Griffith's famous work (1977).

A deconstruction of the 14 questions posed by the President and the advisory opinion on them rendered by the court would show a clear transformation of India's top court in recent times with a disturbing and centralising trend.

To understand this transformation, one needs to analyse how the executive impacts the judicial processes and decisions, irrespective of the rhetoric on separation of powers. The present advisory opinion is an illustrative case for such an enquiry.

Governors and Speakers are constitutionally envisioned as neutral umpires of our democracy. This, however, remains a dream shattered by the country's political experience. At a time governors misuse the power under Article 200 of the Constitution, with a view to prevent the state's legislative ventures, the gubernatorial acts or omissions should be subjected to judicial scrutiny.

Unelected governors cannot sabotage legislative policies of an elected government. This is the reason why in the Tamil Nadu judgment, the Supreme Court held that there is no absolute immunity for gubernatorial actions.

An arbitrary or motivated action of the Raj Bhavan can be challenged before the constitutional court, even according to earlier precedents like *Rameshwar Prasad v. Union of India* (2006). It proclaimed that there is nothing like absolute immunity for gubernatorial actions. The decision in Nabam *Rebia v. Deputy Speaker* (2016) reaffirmed this principle.

In *Rameshwar Prasad*, the Bihar governor's recommendations to dissolve the Assembly even before the first Assembly session was challenged.

The governor's defence that it was so done based on the apprehension of the turncoats deciding the new government was not accepted. The court, at least in principle, held that the governor's act was unconstitutional.

In *Nabam Rebia* the action of the governor of Arunachal Pradesh who installed a new government, after getting several members of the Assembly disqualified, was held to be arbitrary. The Supreme Court, in that case, effectively reinstalled the earlier Congress government.

Judicial scrutiny

These cases, and many other instances, show that governors in India often act due to political temptations. Any discretion vested with them is vulnerable to misuse of power. The possibility for abuse of discretion calls for judicial scrutiny. It is a federal imperative.

Even after the five-judge bench decision, the top court had to admonish the Kerala governor for not finalising the appointment of vice chancellors in the state, which was his statutory duty.

The history of governors in India is interesting. The Governor General of British India had supervisory power over governors as per the Government of India Act, 1858.

Later, as per the Government of India Act, 1935, they were to act as the titular heads of provincial governments, as representatives of the British Queen.

Curiously, even provincial heads were aggrieved by the arbitrary actions of the erstwhile governors. During the Constituent Assembly debates, Biswanath Das lamented that a governor even attempted to break his political party.

Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri and H V Kamath opposed the idea of unlimited discretion to governors. On June 2,1949, Dr Ambedkar had to clarify that "the governor under the Constitution has no functions which he can discharge by himself" and that he has only "certain duties to perform".

Going by the text of the Constitution, the governor was to act as the representative of the Centre on several occasions. The country expected them to act as the statesmen at the states, maintaining the fine balance between the larger interest of the republic and the affairs of the elected government in the states.

The Supreme Court always invoked judicial review whenever gubernatorial actions were arbitrary or motivated. In the Tamil Nadu case, the court went further and said that governors, or even the President for that matter, cannot, in the guise of discretion, prolong the efforts for legislation at the state level.

Thus, timelines were fixed for finalisation of the Bills passed by the state legislature. It also invoked the concept of deemed assent based on which the Tamil Nadu Bills were freed from the gubernatorial clutches. They were made into laws enacted by the people's representatives.

This was an instance of legitimate judicial activism, warranted by facts and circumstances of the case. Yet, it was only a logical and contextual extension of the well settled and broad principle that governors are answerable to the court and thereby to the Constitution and to the people.

As Justice Krishna Iyer said in a different context, "The court is not an inert abstraction; it is people in judicial power." (In Re: *Mulgaokar*, 1978).

This judicial philosophy on gubernatorial accountability evolved by the Supreme Court has suffered a severe setback in the five-judge bench decision on presidential reference.

The court was almost unmindful of the possible aberrations of Raj Bhavans. It is a historic mistake that could have been very well avoided by returning the reference.

When no new constitutional question genuinely arose apart from what was already decided, the court's advisory jurisdiction emanated unpleasant signals for India's federalism.

(The writer is a lawyer at the Supreme Court of India)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Bonding with cousins

A wedding in the family reignited the camaraderie

SADHANA M KUKREJA

The world today is shrinking – and family sizes are too. It's now the era of not just nuclear families — single-child or no-child families are quite the norm. Gone are the days of large families with many children – six to eight, at least – or joint families. Even if they stayed separately, get-togethers were more regular at functions, festive occasions and summer vacations.

Visiting my maternal grandparents' home in Bengaluru was an annual and much-awaited summer vacation. Right from booking the train tickets to buying all the goodies and gifts to be carried from Mumbai, the excitement was palpable. The train journey was an adventure in itself, as a change had to be made either at Guntakal or Miraj (the direct Udyan Express had not yet started).

However, the most exciting moments were those spent with cousins and young uncles and aunts. Riding the toy train at Bal Bhavan in Cubbon Park and watching cartoon films in the mini-theatre were regular weekend outings. Picnics to Lalbagh, climbing trees and plucking fruits, racing up the hill and feeding groundnuts to the deer in the enclosure were some of the most enjoyable and memorable activities.

How we vied with each other, showing off our baby muscles while trying to row the boats at Ulsoor Lake, had the adults in splits – our tiny arms could barely hold the heavy oars, and the boat just drifted or spun around until an adult took charge and the race continued. A picnic to Nandi Hills in 3-4 Fiat cars was a regular event during our visit, and the race to the top was more exciting with all our shouts and screams of encouragement.

The home was abuzz with activity too — hopscotch, carrom, cards, Ludo, Monopoly, housie, table tennis, badminton, *lagori* (seven tiles), hide & seek, skipping and so many other games to engage us all through the day--and even late into the nights. There was no TV back then, and yet we felt the days were too short. These games kept us engaged and built strong bonds.

However, as we all grew older, the visits discontinued, with everyone settling into their careers and other responsibilities. Although we kept in touch through messages, meetings became few and far between, with only one or two at a time.

Recently, at a cousin's wedding in Bengaluru, the lost camaraderie was revived. Everyone had descended on Bengaluru to attend the grand event -- some even from overseas. As soon as we all met, the bond of the moments spent together as children was reignited, and the memories came flooding back. The excitement, happiness and love were visible in our shared moments and laughter. Even the photos reflected them all!

Nearly a month later, when I revisit the photos, I experience a tinge of sadness for those who are missing out on these experiences. I'm glad I was born in the 1960s.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shift focus from staged camaraderie to substantive action

The recent display of calm between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar over a genial breakfast spread resembled political theatre more than purposeful governance. Their vow to end internal skirmishes is welcome, yet citizens may reasonably question why unity requires orchestration from a high command that seems adrift. While smiles were exchanged and *idli* and *kesari baath* consumed, the underlying issues of dilapidated governance and crumbling infrastructure remain glaringly unaddressed. Leaders in Karnataka must shift their focus from staged camaraderie to substantive action. Roads, civic services and public institutions demand urgent attention after months of neglect. If this renewed bonhomie can be channelled toward repairing the state and restoring public confidence, the political spectacle might finally serve a meaningful purpose beyond optics and headlines.
K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

Prioritise RTC Phode

Apropos 'Bhu Suraksha: Scanning 40 cr pages by Feb, says KBG' (Nov 30), digitising the land records does not end with scanning; there is ample work subsequent to this. Moreover, the RTC Phode work is in eternal progress with several errors in the Pahani (like Kharab interchange), for which the farmers are paying heavily. The minister concerned must speed up RTC Phode work since digitising delay does not hinder transactions the way RTC Phode impacts.
Rajiv Magal, Ballupete

Eye on content

The Supreme Court of India's observations on the urgent need for guardrails against misinformation reveal a vacuum we can no longer ignore. A preventive mechanism is not censorship; it is a shield against the reckless spread of falsehoods that endanger lives and erode public trust. Yet regulation must be balanced with independence; an autonomous panel is crucial to ensure grievances are heard without fear or bias. If platforms escape accountability, ordinary citizens bear the consequences. The digital space cannot remain a lawless arena. Thoughtful, transparent regulation is not a threat to free speech but a commitment to protecting truth in a chaotic information age.
Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel accomplished the monumental task of integrating all 562 princely states. The coming generation should take inspiration from him and play a role in fulfilling PM Modi's resolve to build a Viksit Bharat by 2047. The Congress never gave adequate respect to Sardar Patel...
Sanjay Seth, Union Minister

Nobody is forgotten when it is convenient to remember him.
Benjamin Disraeli

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

When the rich fuel emissions

The affluent drive the climate crisis more through their wealth than through their consumption

K N NINAN

It is well known that the industrialised countries in the West are historically responsible for the global climate crisis. Developing countries such as India, therefore, emphasise that climate actions should be based on the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR). This implies that while all countries share a common responsibility to address climate change, developed countries, which have historically contributed more to global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, have greater responsibility and capacity to act than developing countries, which lack the required technologies and resources. Sadly, some industrialised nations want to shirk their historical responsibility and insist that climate actions should be based on countries' current share of GHG emissions.

However, what is not well known is that it is the wealthy people, both across and within nations, who are disproportionately aggravating the global climate crisis through their consumption and production activities. The Climate Inequality Report 2025, authored by Lucas Chancel and Cornelia Mohren of the Paris-based World Inequality Lab, shows that wealthy people are fuelling the global climate crisis.

The report indicates that wealthy people drive the climate crisis through their wealth even more than their consumption. While the top 1% accounts for 15% of global consumption-based GHG emissions, even more striking to note is that 41% of global GHG emissions are associated with private capital ownership. It further warns that climate change can aggravate global wealth inequalities as the share of the global wealth held by the global top 1% is likely to increase sharply from the current 38.5% to 46% by 2050 if wealthy individuals dominate future climate investments, such as low-carbon infrastructure.

In India, the top 1% of households — who control over 60% of national wealth — emit per capita emissions that are seven times higher than those of low-expenditure households, according to some studies.

Wealthy people's consumption patterns contribute significantly to global GHG emissions in many ways, such as frequent travel by private jets, living in palatial bungalows, use of electronic devices, ownership of multiple cars, import and consumption of products and lavish weddings — all with a high carbon footprint. One report says that private jets emit 20 times more carbon emissions per passenger than commercial flights. The pre-wedding event of a top corporate owner in India is estimated to have emitted 35,000 metric tons of CO_2-equivalent emissions through the use of private jets and a cruise ship.

To tackle the global climate crisis and its inherent inequalities, the report calls for three urgent actions. The first is a global ban on new fossil fuel investments. This, however, is easier said than done. Despite UN Secretary General António Guterres's repeated calls at COP meetings and other fora urging countries to outline action plans for an accelerated phase-out of fossil fuels, a coalition of countries and vested interests is totally opposed to it. Global Energy Monitor reports indicate that 200 expanded or new oil and gas projects and 850 coal mines are under development or have received approval, mostly funded by institutional investors and wealthy individuals based in the Global North.

Developing countries like India, that are heavily dependent on fossil fuels to sustain and accelerate economic growth, can't place any restrictions on their use in the near future. However, there is a silver lining: a recent report shows that the growth of global renewable energy outpaced that of fossil fuels in 2024.

The second recommendation is to levy a tax on capital investments based on their carbon content. While consumers increasingly face carbon price signals, financial investors often don't face such taxes. Such a tax could help redirect capital flows from high-carbon assets in the absence of an outright ban on carbon-intensive investments.

Although the European Union (EU) hasn't imposed a carbon tax on capital investments, its Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) places a levy on carbon-intensive imported goods, and its EU Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) requires EU companies to pay for their own carbon emissions. These policies create costs that indirectly influence capital investments by incentivising companies to adopt greener technologies and production methods.

The third recommendation is to scale up public investment in low-carbon infrastructure such as solar and wind energy, ensuring fair access for low- and middle-income groups. This is to prevent further wealth concentration and worsening inequalities.

Climate policies cannot be addressed in isolation from growing wealth inequalities. The costs of climate inaction are disproportionately borne by poorer nations and households. By 2050, the poorest 50% of the global population is projected to bear around 74% of relative income losses, while the top 10% will face only about 3% income losses. The wealthy must therefore play a greater role in enabling a just transition to a low-carbon economy.

(The writer is Lead Author, GEO-7, United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi)

The troubling truth behind India's food-safety regime

D JEEVAN KUMAR

When the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament recently tabled its critical report on the functioning of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), it rekindled a long-overdue national conversation. Food safety—an issue that affects every citizen, from street vendors to multinational manufacturers—rarely receives the political or administrative urgency it deserves. The PAC's findings are troubling, but they also offer an opportunity: to rethink India's food-safety architecture at a time when supply chains are expanding, diets are changing, and new risks are emerging.

The PAC's report depicts a regulator struggling to keep pace with its mandate. FSSAI, created to unify multiple food laws under a single authority, was envisioned as a science-led body capable of modernising India's food-safety ecosystem. Instead, the committee notes serious shortfalls:

Inadequate infrastructure: Food-testing laboratories are unevenly distributed, and many lack modern equipment. Several states depend heavily on private labs, raising concerns about quality and accountability.

Weak enforcement: The report highlights poor compliance monitoring, infrequent inspections, delays in sample testing, and low conviction rates in adulteration cases.

Vacancies and resource constraints: Many key positions in FSSAI and state food-safety departments remain unfilled. Technical expertise—nutritionists, food technologists, toxicologists—is in short supply.

Gaps in surveillance: India still lacks a strong, real-time food-borne disease surveillance system, making it difficult to track outbreaks or detect systemic risks.

These problems are not new. They reflect deeper structural issues that hinder India's ability to ensure safe food for its 1.4 billion citizens. The broader challenges are:

■ A fragmented supply chain vulnerable to contamination

India's food system is extraordinarily complex: millions of small farmers, thousands of *mandis*, wholesalers, transporters, storage points, processors, retailers, and street vendors. Contamination can occur at any stage—pesticide misuse on farms, unhygienic transport, adulteration in wholesale markets, or unsafe handling by small eateries. Ensuring safety across such a fragmented chain requires coordination among ministries of health, agriculture, commerce, transport, consumer affairs, and urban local bodies—coordination that remains weak.

■ Rise of ultra-processed foods and hidden risks

The Indian diet is changing rapidly. Ultra-processed foods—high in salt, sugar, fat, and additives—now occupy supermarket shelves and children's lunch boxes. FSSAI's proposed front-of-pack labelling (FOPL) norms have faced years of industry pushback. Without clear labels and strict nutrient standards, consumers remain unaware of the health risks, contributing to India's rising rates of diabetes, childhood obesity, and cardiovascular disease.

■ E-commerce and food aggregators: A regulatory blind spot

The explosive growth of food delivery platforms has reshaped eating habits, but regulation has not kept pace. Ensuring hygiene standards in thousands of cloud kitchens, home-based businesses, and aggregator-linked outlets is a challenge for which current inspection systems are ill-equipped. These platforms have also blurred jurisdictional boundaries, demanding new digital models of oversight.

■ Climate change and new threats

Climate change is a food-safety issue. Rising temperatures accelerate bacterial growth in perishables, while erratic rainfall affects crop quality and pesticide dynamics. Mycotoxins in grains, contamination in seafood due to warming waters, and pathogen spread in supply chains signal risks that traditional regulatory models do not fully consider.

■ Weak consumer awareness and lack of demand for safe food

Consumer movements demanding strict food-safety standards remain weak in India. Low public awareness allows adulteration and unsafe practices to persist. Food safety can succeed only when citizens recognise it as a right—not a luxury.

India must look beyond incremental reforms. Food safety deserves the same urgency the country accords to public health, digital governance, or infrastructure.

■ FSSAI should be empowered with greater autonomy, adequate budgetary resources, and a clear mandate to hire top-tier scientific talent. India needs more toxicologists, microbiologists, food technologists, and nutritionists—not just administrators.

■ Every state should have at least one world-class, NABL-accredited lab, supported by mobile testing units covering rural areas. Public-private partnerships can help, but with strict safeguards to ensure impartiality.

■ India needs integrated, digital, real-time surveillance systems linking hospitals, municipal bodies, and laboratories to track food-borne illnesses, contaminants, and adulterants. Early detection must become the new norm.

■ Clear "High in Fat/Salt/Sugar" labels, as recommended by global best practices, are essential. Industry objections should not override public health imperatives.

■ FSSAI must collaborate with state governments and tech platforms to develop digital inspection models, risk-based scoring of food businesses, and standardised protocols for cloud kitchens and home-based vendors.

■ Municipal bodies must be central to food-safety enforcement—hygiene grades for eateries, audits of street-food hubs, and sanitation infrastructure in marketplaces.

■ Just as the Swachh Bharat Mission changed public hygiene behaviour, a nationwide programme—led by schools, community organisations, and media—can empower consumers to demand safe food.

The PAC report has exposed critical gaps in FSSAI's functioning, but the deeper message is clear: food safety cannot be treated as a routine regulatory task. It must be understood as a foundational pillar of national health, economic productivity, and human well-being. At a time when India aspires to become a global manufacturing hub and a $10-trillion economy, ensuring safe food is not merely a regulatory obligation—it is a moral responsibility.

Strengthening India's food-safety ecosystem is not about adding more rules; it is about building trust in what we eat every day. The PAC has done its job by sounding the alarm. It is now for policymakers, industry, and citizens to act—before the next crisis arrives on our plates.

(The writer is an Hon Professor at Mahatma Gandhi Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University, Gadag; Adjunct Professor at Kristu Jayanti University, Bengaluru; and Visiting Professor at St Claret College, Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh)

Agents are arresting foreign-born spouses when they report for the final step to obtain permanent residency, and charging them with violations that could result in deportation

MIRIAM JORDAN

A demonstration against recent ICE raids along Interstate 5 in San Diego, California. Immigration lawyers in San Diego estimate that several dozen foreign-born spouses have been detained in the region since November 12. NYT

For spouses, green card interviews turn into arrests

The married couples filed into a federal building in San Diego last month for green card interviews that they believed would secure their future together in the United States. Half of each pair was American. Stephen Paul came with his British wife and their four-month-old baby. Audrey Hestmark arrived with her German husband, days before their first wedding anniversary. Jason Cordero accompanied his Mexican wife.

It was supposed to be a celebratory milestone, the final step in the process to obtain US permanent residency. Instead, as each interview with an immigration officer wrapped up, federal agents swooped in, handcuffed the foreign spouse and took him or her away. "I had to take our baby from my crying wife's arms," Paul, 33, said, recalling the moment that agents said they were arresting his wife, Katie.

Katie Paul was sent to an immigration detention centre with hundreds of other people swept up in the Trump administration's crackdown. Her husband had to take a leave from his job at the San Diego County Sheriff's Department to care for their child and try to secure her release.

"It's insane to have them rip our family apart," Stephen Paul said. "Whoever is directing this has completely lost touch with their mission to the country."

In recent weeks, immigration lawyers in several cities have seen a surge in arrests of foreign spouses of Americans during interviews at US Citizenship and Immigration Services offices. The arrests have come amid the president's widening campaign against immigration.

After an Afghan immigrant was arrested in the killing of a National Guard member and wounding of another near the White House this past week, President Donald Trump vowed to re-examine all asylum requests granted during the Biden administration, and to review the green cards of people from 19 nations that he has subjected to a travel ban.

In San Diego alone, immigration lawyers in the region estimate that several dozen foreign-born spouses have been detained since November 12, when the new tactic first surfaced, according to Andrew Nietor, an immigration lawyer. A former chair of the San Diego chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, Nietor said the estimate was based on members' communications about their clients. The exact number of spouses detained is unclear because many couples attend the routine interviews without lawyers, who would alert colleagues. The government has not disclosed a tally of such detentions.

In every case, agents with Immigration and Customs Enforcement told the applicants that they had overstayed tourist or business visas. An arrest warrant, reviewed by *The New York Times*, states that "there is probable cause to believe" that the named spouse is "removable from the US."

"Apprehensions at US Citizenship and Immigration Services offices may occur if individuals are identified as having outstanding warrants; being subject to court-issued removal orders; or having committed fraud, crimes or other violations of immigration law while in the United States," said Matthew Tragesser, an agency spokesperson, noting that the arrests were typically carried out by ICE. But the couples and their lawyers said they had followed the required steps: They had submitted extensive paperwork and paid fees. The foreign spouses had been fingerprinted and passed medical exams. None had criminal records. None had entered the country illegally. They had already been granted employment authorisation. "In 25 years of practice, I have never seen anything like this," Johanna Keamy, the Pauls' lawyer, said, echoing the view of other lawyers. "What's next? Revoking green cards from millions who followed these same steps?"

Green-card applicants' temporary visas often lapse while their "adjustment-of-status" proceeds over several months or longer. An immigration statute passed by Congress in 1986 allows a spouse who entered the country lawfully to be eligible for a green card through marriage even if the person's visa has expired.

"Congress was unambiguous — these people are eligible for green cards," said Doug Rand, who was a senior official at Citizenship and Immigration Services during the Biden administration.

While federal law does not prohibit spouses with expired visas from being detained and placed in deportation proceedings, in the past they have rarely been detained while applying for green cards.

The Trump administration is carrying out such detentions without having announced any change in policy.

The recent spate of arrests comes amid a leadership shake-up at ICE, including the San Diego region, designed to accelerate and advance the president's agenda. Ordinarily, foreign spouses of Americans are approved for US permanent residency during or shortly after the in-person interview.

Audrey Hestmark, and her husband, Thomas Bilger reported to the government office in San Diego on November 20, hopeful he would have his green card for their first wedding anniversary two days later.

"Tom was super excited to become a US resident, so much so that he had insisted on a cowboy-themed wedding," said Hestmark, a registered nurse.

They immediately hired a lawyer and assembled documents from Germany and the US to support their petition. At the interview, they brought requisite evidence that their marriage was legitimate — photos of a vacation to Hawaii with his parents; leases, bank statements and utility bills in both names; and other records. The officer asked routine questions. But the last one, according to Hestmark, was whether her husband had ever overstayed his visa. He responded truthfully and cited their lawyer's assurance that this was a non-issue.

"Suddenly, we were ambushed by three masked men in bulletproof vests with guns who told Tom they had a warrant for his arrest, that he is here unlawfully," Hestmark recalled.

The agents handcuffed her husband, gave her a card with a QR code for the ICE website and took him away. She did not hear from him again until the next morning. He has been bounced between a basement in downtown San Diego and an immigration detention centre, where he remains.

Some US citizens have hired lawyers to seek the release of spouses, through actions such as posting bond. Once released, the foreign spouses must try to pursue green cards through immigration court, where judges are grappling with yearslong backlogs. Nietor, the immigration lawyer, said the government's strategy appeared to be to induce the couples "to give up and abandon their cases and accept the foreign spouse's deportation."

Katie and Stephen Paul met on a gaming platform more than two years ago. Their friendship flourished into a romance, and she visited him several times under the visa-waiver programme for British nationals, which permits stays of up to three months at a time. She joined his family on a trip to Japan, and the couple married last October. Two days later, they discovered she was pregnant with Alan, now four months old.

They filed their green-card petition in July. Their interview this month was going smoothly, he said, until three ICE agents walked in and informed them that Katie Paul, who was holding her infant, was under arrest. Their lawyer, Keamy, who was participating by telephone, objected, saying this had never happened before.

Stephen Paul said the agents had told him that they disagreed with the directive to arrest his wife but that they had to follow orders. After Stephen Paul learned from his wife that the authorities were threatening to deport her without a hearing, he said, their lawyer filed a lawsuit in federal court in San Diego to halt her removal and secure her release. In response, the government approved Katie Paul's green card and freed her.

The New York Times

HIV has changed. Now our attitudes must

GLORY ALEXANDER

Over the last two decades, HIV care has undergone a transformation so profound that it is difficult to recall the early years of the epidemic, when a diagnosis was almost synonymous with fear, stigma, and the certainty of premature death. Today, we stand in a very different place. Thanks to scientific breakthroughs, global commitment, and the widespread availability of effective treatment, HIV has become a chronic, manageable health condition—one in which people living with HIV (PLHIV) can expect long, healthy, and productive lives.

The single most important factor of this shift has been the advent and evolution of antiretroviral therapy (ART). Two decades ago, ART regimens were complex, toxic, and expensive, accessible only to a few. Mortality was high, and HIV-care infrastructure in many parts of the world, including India, was limited. Over time, ART has evolved into simple, safe, once-daily regimens with minimal side effects. This scientific progress has turned the tide of the epidemic. A young person newly diagnosed with HIV today, who begins ART early and adheres well, can have a normal life expectancy, comparable to those without HIV. Medically, HIV is no longer viewed as a fatal illness but as a chronic manageable condition—akin to hypertension or diabetes—requiring regular medication and monitoring but compatible with a full and meaningful life.

However, while science has moved forward, societal beliefs have not kept pace. A majority of the general population still holds outdated ideas about HIV. Many continue to believe that the infection is spread casually through touch, sharing food, or simply being in the same room as a person with HIV. Others assume that PLHIV cannot marry, cannot have children, or will inevitably die young. These beliefs belong to an earlier era, and this gap between knowledge and perception remains one of the biggest challenges faced by PLHIV.

The reality is very different. ART not only preserves health and lifespan, it also prevents transmission. When a PLHIV is on effective ART and achieves viral suppression, they cannot transmit the virus to their sexual partners—this principle, known globally as "U=U" (Undetectable = Untransmittable), has transformed how we view relationships, marriage, and sexuality for PLHIV. Today, PLHIV can marry partners who are HIV-positive or HIV-negative, have fulfilling relationships, and build families. With appropriate care and preventive interventions during pregnancy, childbirth, and breastfeeding, the risk of a mother transmitting HIV to her baby is almost zero.

Perhaps the strongest testament to progress is found in the lives of children who grew up with HIV. Many who were infected at birth are now healthy adults, completing education, pursuing careers, getting married, and having HIV-negative children. In many families, HIV transmission has effectively stopped by the third generation--proof that with treatment, support, and awareness, HIV need not define or limit anyone's life.

India's progress has been substantial. The scale-up of ART services, strong community engagement, and dedicated institutions have been pivotal. The National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) has played a transformative role by ensuring free nationwide access to life-saving ART. The AIDS Society of India has provided regular updates on HIV to its doctors through its national conferences over the last 25 years. Numerous children who received care from ASHA Foundation have grown into confident, healthy adults living full lives, many now married and parents to HIV-negative children.

The progress in the field of HIV is a reminder of what science, solidarity, and sustained commitment can achieve. However, the journey is not over. Medical advances alone cannot eliminate stigma. To truly transform the lives of PLHIV, society must update its understanding and accept that HIV is no longer a death sentence. PLHIV can--and do--lead long, healthy, productive, and joyful lives.

The message is clear: HIV has changed. It is time our attitudes changed too. With continued access to ART, strong support systems, and community-driven efforts--especially among key populations--the next generation can grow up in a world where HIV is neither feared nor misunderstood—but seen simply as another medical condition with effective treatment.

The story of HIV today is not one of despair but of resilience, science, and hope. The growing number of HIV-free children born to parents with HIV, and the vibrant lives of young adults who grew up with the virus stand as powerful proof that progress is not only possible—it is here.

(The writer is president, AIDS Society of India and founder-director, ASHA Foundation, an NGO working in the field of HIV)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: DECEMBER 1975

Swaran Singh, Dikshit quit

New Delhi, November 30
Prime Minister Indira Gandhi tonight reshuffled her Cabinet inducting the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Dr. G.S. Dhillon and the Haryana Chief Minister, Mr. Bansilal. They will fill two vacancies in the Cabinet arising out of the resignations announced tonight of Sardar Swaran Singh, Minister of Defence, and Mr. Uma Shankar Dikshit, Minister of Transport and Shipping. Two Ministers of State, Mr. R. K. Khadilkar and Mr. K. R. Ganesh, have also relinquished their offices.

25 YEARS AGO: DECEMBER 2000

Lok Pal Bill coming up

New Delhi, Nov 30
The Union Cabinet tonight decided to introduce in the current session of Parliament the Lok Pal Bill, 2000 which covers the Prime Minister but keeps MPs out of its jurisdiction, Parliamentary Affairs minister Pramod Mahajan told newspersons after a Cabinet meeting. The Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Union Home Minister L K Advani passed its provisions at a meeting on November 23. Details have been passed on to the Legislative Department for drafting the Bill, Mr Mahajan said.

OASIS | SUDHA UMASHANKER

The sea and spirituality

Can you recall a time when you stood at the beach-front and were completely awestruck by the sea ahead of you ? Roaring waves, rolling , rising, crashing and the water rushing to the edge? Deep down, the sea is so full of mystery and wonder. It sustains many forms of life. And being a marvel of God's creations , the sea also holds great significance in spirituality.

Like when the Red Sea parted and let Moses lead the fear-stricken Israelites out. As God commanded, Moses held his staff over the water at which the water parted and his men were able to walk on dry ground and cross the sea .

During the churning of the ocean by the *devas* and *asuras* known as *Samudra Manthana*, using the Meru mountain as the fulcrum and the serpent Vasuki as the rope, several magical and wonderful things came out of it (after the emission of *halahala,* the toxic that Lord Shiva swallowed to save the world). The list includes the emergence of Goddess Lakshmi, Airavata the elephant, Uchchaishravas the horse, the precious Kaustubh, Dhanvantri and the pot of nectar or *amrit*.

The sea is also considered to be very purifying. After every eclipse many Hindus have a bath in the sea as it is believed that the sea has the power to wash away all the negative energies and spiritual impurities . Homes are even washed in sea water before certain *havanas*.

How is the sea able to do this? The salt in the water has the ability to cleanse accumulated negative energies and clear our energy fields, which can lead to a higher level of consciousness and greater clarity.

Recently , during the telecast of the *Soorasamharam* enactments- an important part of a popular festival celebrating Lord Kartikeya's killing of the *asura* Sooran in a battle fought by the sea in Tiruchendur, one of the six abodes of the Lord and the only one by the sea -- it was recalled that time and again the sea stopped short of the temple as if in reverence to the deity . Locals recall that even during the tsunami the temple remained protected and untouched by devastation and damage elsewhere .

Let us do all we can to protect and revere our seas and refrain from mindless sullying. Else, we will be left helpless when its fury is unleashed.

BJP vows Olympics push for Kerala capital

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: The BJP in Kerala has proposed making Thiruvananthapuram a venue for the 2036 Olympics, even though the host city for the event is yet to be decided.

The offer was made in the party's manifesto for the upcoming local body elections in Kerala.

"The Centre will be urged to make Thiruvananthapuram one of the venues of the 2036 Olympics to be held in India. This will strengthen the sporting dreams of the youth in the state capital," the manifesto for the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, which goes to the polls on December 9, said.

The BJP government at the Centre has reportedly been pushing to host the 2036 Olympics in India, with Gujarat as the proposed main venue, though no official decision has yet been made.

In Thiruvananthapuram, where the party made gains by winning 35 seats in the corporation in both the 2015 and 2020 elections, the BJP is now making an all-out bid for a majority.

Releasing the manifesto on Sunday, BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar said Thiruvananthapuram would witness massive development if the party came to power in the city corporation.

Activist held for defaming sexual-assault complainant

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Right-wing activist and social commentator Rahul Easwar was held on Sunday in a case pertaining to the defamation of a woman who had lodged a sexual assault complaint against Kerala MLA Rahul Mamkootathil.

Apart from Easwar, Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee general secretary and former BJP leader Sandeep Varrier, Mahila Congress activist Ranjitha Pulickal, and advocate Deepa Joseph were also booked for defaming the complainant and revealing her identity.

Easwar was taken into custody from his house in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday. His arrest was reportedly recorded by night after quizzing. He was booked under various sections of the BNS and the IT Act.

Meanwhile, the police team probing the sexual assault case against Mamkootathil on Sunday searched his flat in Palakkad. However, he is yet to be traced.

Haryana man beaten to death after row at wedding

CHANDIGARH, PTI: A 26-year-old professional bodybuilder was beaten to death allegedly by a group of men after he left a wedding venue in Bhiwani district.

The family of the victim, Rohit Dhankar, claimed that Dhankar was brutally thrashed in Bhiwani for objecting to the harassment of women at a wedding. A police officer on Sunday said that the attack followed an altercation over a selfie at the wedding on Friday, where Dhankar had gone. His uncle said he got into an altercation with some youths over improper language.

Winter Session set to open under the shadow of SIR

Govt plans 13 bills; Oppn insists on debate over roll revision

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Parliament's Winter Session is set for a stormy start on Monday, with the Opposition sharpening its arsenal to insist on a debate on the contentious Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, even as the government expressed its willingness to discuss any issue under the rules.

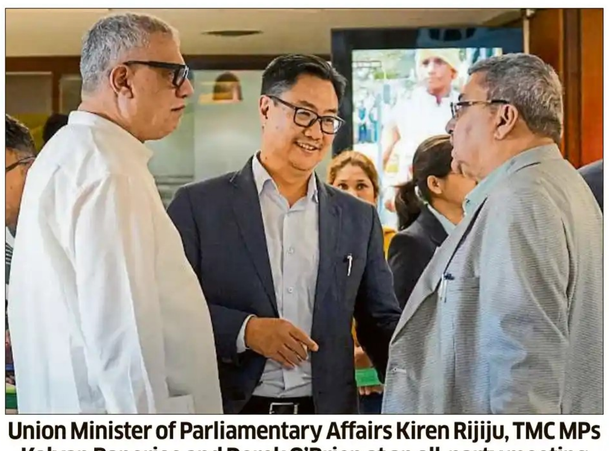
Besides the SIR, the Opposition is also pressing for discussions on national security in the wake of the Delhi car explosion, labour codes, the governors' role and pending dues to states. t has warned that the government will bear responsibility for disruptions if a debate on the SIR is denied.

While it is keen on a discussion to celebrate the 150th year of 'Vande Mataram, the government has told floor leaders that it intends to bring 13 bills and Supplementary Demands for Grants during the session, which is scheduled to conclude on December 19.

At the customary all-party meeting, Opposition parties—from Congress to Trinamool Congress, DMK, Samajwadi Party and CPM, among others—strongly demanded a discussion on the SIR.

Leaders such as Trinamool Congress' Derek O'Brien and CPM's John Brittas said they were flexible on the wording of the notice and suggested it could be broadened into electoral reforms.

Congress Lok Sabha Deputy Leader Gaurav Gogoi designed



Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju, TMC MPs Kalyan Banerjee and Derek O'Brien at an all-party meeting ahead of the Winter Session in New Delhi on Sunday. PTI

the Congress demands under the umbrella of security and said there should be discussions on national security, the security of the electoral process and economic security. "The security of democracy is important. The Election Commission is biased. There should be a discussion on the purity of the voter list," he said.

Samajwadi Party leader Ramgopal Yadav said the government should immediately begin a discussion on the SIR by "stopping everything else". He told reporters after the meeting that Parliament would not be allowed to function if there was no debate on the issue. The government cannot shy away from the discussion on the wrongdoings committed in the name of SIR, Yadav said, also referring to a suicide note left by a Booth Level Officer (BLO).

After the meeting chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and attended by 50 leaders from 36 parties, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said Parliament should be allowed to function smoothly and that the government would continue holding discussions with all parties to ensure orderly proceedings.

"In parliamentary democracies, deadlocks occur. Everyone works with their own ideologies and agendas, so differences are inevitable. Despite this, we should ensure the House is not disrupted in any way," he told reporters.

He added that decisions on parliamentary business would be taken as per the rules.

Trinamool's Kalyan Banerjee said his party was ready to cooperate in running Parliament and urged the government to reciprocate. Trinamool leaders also pointed out that both the number of sitting days and the notices admitted for discussion have been reducing.

Herald case: FIR against Sonia, Rahul

Cheating case registered based on ED complaint

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Delhi Police have registered a case of cheating and criminal conspiracy against top Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, among others, on a complaint filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the *National Herald* issue, alleging that they fraudulently acquired Associated Journals Ltd (AJL), which used to publish the party mouthpiece.

The FIR also names Congress leaders Suman Dubey and Sam Pitroda, Young Indian (YI), Dotex Merchandise Ltd, Dotex promoter Sunil Bhandari, AJL, and unknown others. The police registered the case under IPC Sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 403 (misappropriation of property), 406 (punishment for criminal breach of trust) and 420 (cheating).

The total proceeds of crime were pegged at Rs 988 cr. PTI FILE

The total proceeds of crime were pegged at Rs 988.03 crore — AJL shares worth Rs 90.21 crore with Young Indian, AJL's immovable properties worth Rs 755.15 crore, and Rs 142.67-crore rent.

The ED invoked Section 66(2) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) — which allowed it to share evidence for the registration of a case by a law enforcement agency so that it can subsequently register a money-laundering case to take it forward — to ask the Delhi Police to register a case.

The agency was probing the issue following a court order that took cognisance of a June 2014 private complaint by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy. The ED told the police that it had "additional facts" that disclosed cognisable offences, which were "beyond" the scope of Swamy's complaint and the court order. The ED filed a chargesheet in the case in a Delhi court in April, and the court has yet to take cognisance of it, with the next date of hearing being December 16.

The Gandhis are accused of fraudulently taking over AJL, which has properties worth over Rs 2,000 crore through YI, where Sonia and Rahul together have 76% equity, by paying just Rs 50 lakh.

YI had acquired a Rs 90.21-crore debt that AJL owed to the All India Congress Committee (AICC), and AJL, converting it into equity shares in favour of the former. The ED alleged it was defrauding AJL shareholders on one hand and its public donors on the other, and dishonestly inducing the AICC to forego its right to recover the Rs 90.21-crore advance it gave to the publisher of *National Herald*.

According to the ED, the AICC could have become a 99% shareholder of AJL's properties. Members and donors of the AICC were cheated by fraudulent and false misrepresentations, which included the loan being not recoverable and the selling of the right to recover the loan, it said.

Cong slams Modi-Shah over 'completely bogus' case

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Congress accused PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah of continuing with their "mischievous politics of harassment" against its top leadership while calling the FIR against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald issue "completely bogus".

Party general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said those who threaten are themselves "insecure and afraid". "...The National Herald matter is a completely bogus case..."

MP Abhishek Singhvi said, "one trick wonder of a case where no money moved, where no immovable property transferred, yet money laundering (was) invented upon creation of Young Indian as a not-for-profit company to merely hold shares of AJL, which in turn runs and holds brand National Herald and continues to hold all property as before and as always."

Cracks appear in Bihar Oppn ahead of session

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Bomb squad inspects the Bihar Legislative Assembly campus ahead of the Winter session in Patna. PTI

All does not appear to be well within the Mahagathbandhan — the Opposition alliance — ahead of the first session of the new Bihar Assembly, with the Congress reportedly favouring an annulment of its ties with the RJD.

The inaugural session of the 18th Bihar Assembly will commence on Monday, when all 243 newly elected members will take oath as MLAs. The oath will be administered by Pro-tem Speaker Narendra Narayan Yadav, senior JD(U) leader, who was appointed (as Pro-tem Speaker) by Bihar Governor Arif Mohammad Khan.

Ahead of the session, the Mahagathbandhan met and elected Tejashwi Yadav as its leader. He will formally be declared as the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly.

However, in a sign of inter-alliance rift, a section of the Congress, during the feedback session with party president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi last week, argued that the RJD's "over-aggressive stand" put lakhs of voters off Opposition candidates as they feared a return of the "Jungle Raj" of the Lalu-Rabri era.

"The Congress is free to part ways with the RJD, but should remember that even the six Congress candidates who won in Bihar did so due to the RJD," said Bihar RJD president and former minister Mangni Lal Mandal.

"The Congress is blaming the RJD for the poll debacle, when the fact is RJD leaders never favoured a tie-up with the Congress, which had neither workers on the ground nor any concrete strategy to fight the Nitish Kumar-led NDA in Bihar," he added.

Stunned by the aggressive stand of the RJD, the Congress is now treading a cautious path. "Right now, our aim is to counter the BJP-led alliance and not fight amongst ourselves," said Bihar Congress spokesperson Rajesh Rathore.

The NDA stormed to power in Bihar with Nitish getting his fifth consecutive term. The saffron alliance won 202 seats, while the Mahagathbandhan was restricted to 35. The AIMIM won five seats, while the BSP managed only one.

Some people don't know our own languages: RSS chief

NAGPUR, PTI: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday expressed concern over the declining use of Indian languages and mother tongues, saying the situation has reached a point where "some Bharatiya people do not know our own languages".

Speaking in Nagpur at the release of the English version of 'Shri Dnyaneshwari', a book originally written in Marathi by Sant Dnyaneshwar, Bhagwat appealed to society to introspect on the erosion of linguistic heritage.

"There was a time when entire communication, sharing, daily business was in Sanskrit. Now, some American professor teaches us Sanskrit, when in reality we should have been teaching it to the world. Many children today do not know some very basic and simple words and often speak at home in a mix of their mother tongue and English," he said.

"The situation has reached a point where some Bharatiya people do not know our own Indian languages," the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief said. He maintained that English-medium education was not to blame, but the reluctance to speak Indian languages at home was aggravating the situation.

"If we speak our language properly in our home, things would be better. But we do not do it," he said. Even seers now reach out in English, which is understandable, but still indicative of changing linguistic preferences, Bhagwat noted.

Kerala anti-waqf land agitation splinters after 415 days

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

FAITH & POLITICS

- Over 600 families in coastal village protest waqf board's land claim
- One faction ends stir after HC allows land tax payments
- Dissenting group sets up new venue
- Both sides accuse each other of yielding to CPM and BJP interests

The 415-day stir by residents of Munambam, a coastal village near Kochi, against the Kerala Waqf Board's claim over their land has split, allegedly due to political interventions.

While one section of agitators called off the protest on Sunday after the state government permitted landowners to pay tax on the basis of a high court order, another section has decided to continue until the waqf board withdraws its decision to include their lands in the waqf registry.

Dramatic scenes unfolded on Sunday as the faction that chose to continue the stir walked out of the function organised to formally call it off. Until now, the protest had been staged on the premises of the local church, but the dissenting group has set up a new venue in the coastal area.

Both sides accused each other of yielding to the political interests of the CPM and the BJP.

Leaders of the action council, who ended the stir, said they did so after the state government assured that landowners' revenue rights would be restored. They alleged that the faction pressing on with the protest was acting under the influence of the BJP.

In October, the Kerala High Court ruled the waqf declaration of their land illegal, and last week directed the state government to accept land tax, which many residents have since paid.

Meanwhile, those continuing the agitation said that the protest had yet to achieve its core demand — removal of their lands from the waqf board registry. They alleged that the action council leaders who ended the stir had succumbed to the interests of the ruling CPM.

Over 600 families in Munambam were on a stir over the past 415 days in protest against the waqf board's land claim.

The stir drew national attention after Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju highlighted it during the waqf law amendment and visited the agitators in April — seen as the BJP's outreach to the Christian community, which forms a large share of those affected.

COMMONWEALTH COSTS

Residents search through the debris of their damaged houses, demolished by the Amdavad Municipal Corporation as part of preparations for the 2030 Commonwealth Games, against the backdrop of the Narendra Modi Cricket Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday. AFP

Learn Tamil during Kashi-Tamil Sangamam: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Asking citizens to participate in the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam, which commences on December 2 at the Namo Ghat in Varanasi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said people should use the opportunity to learn Tamil.

In his monthly radio programme "Mann ki Baat", Modi said: "This year's Kashi-Tamil Sangamam has a very interesting theme: Learn Tamil - Tamil Karkalam." He described the event as the confluence of the world's oldest language and one of the world's oldest cities, adding that it had become an important platform for all attached to the Tamil language.

Hindutva soul of Bharat: Hosabale for laws against conversion

INDORE, PTI: RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale on Sunday described the concept of Hindutva as the "soul of Bharat" and said religious conversions can be checked through public awareness, social harmony and strict enforcement of laws.

Hosabale attended a "Pramukh Jan Goshthi" here, an event held as part of the RSS's centenary outreach. Representatives from various sections of society were present.

"Hindutva is the soul of India," he was quoted as saying in a statement issued by the RSS.

"God can be attained through this path, or that path is the Hindu thought. The society that says this is Hindu. Because of this society living on this land, this is a Hindu nation. Hindu culture has diverse expressions, but its core is one," Hosabale said.

'Dharma broader'

He emphasised that the concept of dharma in Indian culture is not limited to the English word "religion" and needs to be understood in a broader sense.

Giving an example, he said, "Traffic rules are the same for everyone. The vehicle is 'religion' and adhering to traffic rules is 'dharma'. Religion can be changed, but dharma cannot. If the intentions behind changing religion are wrong, then there is a need to be cautious and stop such acts."

Maha woman 'marries' corpse of boyfriend killed by her kin

NANDED, PTI: A 21-year-old woman showed how deeply she was in love with her boyfriend, who was allegedly killed by her father and two siblings over "caste differences", by "marrying" his corpse in Maharashtra's Nanded.

Videos of Aanchal Mamidwar's act at the deceased's home and her call for her kin to be hanged for the killing went viral on social media.

According to police, Aanchal's brother, Himesh Mamidwar, allegedly fired at her boyfriend, Saksham Tate (20), after a fight erupted between the two on Thursday evening. Himesh also smashed a tile on Saksham's head, killing him on the spot.

Himesh, his brother Sahil (25) and their father Gajanan Mamidwar (45) were arrested soon after, he added. On Friday evening, Aanchal arrived at Saksham's house while preparations were on for his final rites. A distraught Aanchal then "married" his body, claiming it would make their love "immortal", eyewitnesses said.

Later, speaking to reporters, she also sought capital punishment for her father and brothers for murdering Saksham.

UP: Seers demand rechristening of localities with 'Islamic names'

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Days after Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's decision to rename Mutafabad in the state's Lakhimpur Kheri district to Kabirdham, seers in Ayodhya demanded the rechristening of several of the temple town's localities that had "Islamic names".

Prominent seer and Mahant of the famous Hanumangarhi Temple in Ayodhya, Raju Das, asked the district administration to rechristen the localities with names having a "Sanatana identity".

The Mahant said that there were several localities near the Ram Temple in Ayodhya that had Islamic names such as "Quaziana", "Urdu Bazar", and "Kaniganj".

"Ayodhya is a town of temples, and therefore the names of the localities must also be according to the Sanatana traditions... Islam has no place in Lord Rama's town," he said.

"The administration should rechristen these localities after Lord Rama, Parashuram, and Lord Mahavira," said Raju Das. He appealed to his disciples and local people to raise their voice on this issue and asked them to launch a campaign to that end.

He also warned the administration that the names must be changed within 15 days, else he would, along with his supporters, remove the signboards containing "Islamic names" and replace them with those with names having a "Sanatana identity".

The Mahant also claimed the support of other seers on this issue.

Dowry death an affront to society's collective conscience: Top court

Says it represents one of the most abhorrent manifestations of social malaise

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Friday cancelled the bail granted to a man in a case of his wife's dowry death, saying judicial passivity or misplaced leniency in such cases would only embolden perpetrators and undermine public confidence in justice.

Holding that dowry deaths were an offence against not just an individual but against society at large, a bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahadevan said marriage had in recent times been regrettably reduced to a mere commercial transaction.

"The evil of dowry, though often sought to be camouflaged as gifts or voluntary offerings, has in reality become a means to display social status and to satiate material greed," the bench said.

"When such demands transgress the bounds of reason and culminate in cruelty — or worse, in the untimely death of a young bride — the offence transcends the private sphere of the family and assumes the character of a grave social crime. It ceases to remain a mere personal tragedy and becomes an affront to the collective conscience of society," the bench said.

The court allowed an appeal filed by Yogendra Pal Singh, the bride's father, against the Allahabad High Court's January 9 order that granted bail to the husband, Raghvendra Singh alias Prince, in the case of his daughter's death on June 5, 2023 — within four months of marriage.

It was alleged that the accused forcibly administered her some "smelly substance" to demand a Fortuner car, even though her family spent Rs 22 lakh, and gave articles worth Rs 10 lakh and jewellery worth Rs 15 lakh.

The bench said a firm and deterrent judicial response was imperative, not only to uphold the majesty of law and do justice in the case but also to send an unequivocal message that neither law nor society would tolerate barbarities born out of dowry.

In a 28-page judgment on Friday, Justice Mahadevan wrote for the bench: "The phenomenon of dowry deaths represents one of the most abhorrent manifestations of this social malaise, where the life of a young woman is extinguished within her matrimonial home — not for any fault of her own, but solely to satisfy the insatiable greed of others."

Such heinous offences struck at the very root of human dignity and violated the constitutional guarantees of equality and life with dignity under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India, he said.

37 Naxals surrender in Ch'garh; 27 carried Rs 65L bounty

DANTEWADA (CHHATTISGARH), PTI: Thirty-seven Naxalites, 27 of them collectively carrying a reward of Rs 65 lakh, surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district on Sunday, police said.

The cadres, including 12 women, turned themselves in before senior police and CRPF officials here as part of the "Poona Margem" (from rehabilitation to social reintegration) initiative, Dantewada Superintendent of Police Gaurav Rai said.

The initiative has been emerging as a transformative drive for establishing lasting peace in the region, he said.

The key cadres among those who surrendered include Kumali alias Anita Mandavi, Geeta alias Lakshmi Madkam, Ranjan alias Soma Mandavi and Bhima alias Jahaj Kalmu. All of them carried a reward of Rs 8 lakh each, the official said.

Under the government's rehabilitation policy, the cadres who have surrendered will be provided instant assistance of Rs 50,000 each along with other facilities, like training for skill development etc., he said.

Inspired by the surrender and rehabilitation policies of the Centre and the state government, more than 508 Maoists, 165 of them carrying a reward, have quit violence and joined the social mainstream in Dantewada district over the past 20 months, the official said.

11 killed, 54 injured as govt buses collide head-on in TN

SIVAGANGA (TAMIL NADU), PTI

As many as 11 people were killed and 54 injured on Sunday near here after two state-run buses collided head-on, police said.

According to an official release, all 11 people—9 women and 2 men—were killed on the spot in the accident that happened in the evening.

The injured were rushed to state-run facilities for treatment, the senior official said.

Chief Minister M K Stalin expressed shock and grief over the accident and the loss of lives.

The chief minister said he has directed the district collector and minister K R Periyakaruppan, the minister in charge for the district, to render all help to the affected persons and ensure appropriate treatment to the injured.

He also announced an ex gratia of Rs 3 lakh each to the families of the victims and Rs 1lakh to those with serious injuries.

The chief minister announced Rs 50,000 to persons with minor injuries.

Stalin conveyed his condolences to the bereaved families and expressed his wishes for the early recovery of the injured persons.

PMK and AMMK were among the parties that have conveyed their condolences to the bereaved families.

On the cause of the accident, the police official said, "it was a head-on collision, the reason is not clear, we are looking into it."

A senior doctor at the Sivaganga Government Medical College Hospital told reporters that all arrangements have been made to provide care and treatment to the people injured in the mishap.

The mishap occurred at Vairavanpatti near Tirupattur under Nachiyapuram police limits on the Tirupattur-Pillayarpatti route, approximately15 km away from Karaikudi.

Rajasthan revokes order to mark Dec 6 'Shaurya Diwas' in schools after criticism

JAIPUR, PTI: A controversial order directing all schools in Rajasthan to observe December 6—the day the Babri Masjid was demolished in 1992—as "Shaurya Diwas" was on Sunday recalled by the government after it drew flak.

While the order was recalled, a stark contradiction in statements between School Education Minister Madan Dilawar and Director of Secondary Board Education Sitaram Jat surfaced. Dilawar said that it was not possible to hold any other activities or events on campus as exams are in progress, whereas Jat said that no such order had been issued by him.

The order released on an official WhatsApp group on Saturday night was recalled Sunday morning citing "unavoidable circumstances"

"Due to unavoidable circumstances, the order has been taken back," it read.

"Since examinations are in progress in all schools, it is not possible to hold any other activities or events on campus. Therefore, the Shaurya Diwas programmes stand postponed," Dilawar said in a statement.

However, Sitaram Jat said, "No such directions have been issued to the schools. I don't know how it is being circulated."

The order drew sharp criticism from the Congress and Muslim groups.

"This government wants to teach children about the day of the Babri Masjid's demolition as a day of bravery. By doing so, they will only serve to destroy the religious atmosphere," Govind Singh Dotasra, Congress state president, said.

Mohammed Nazimuddin, general secretary of the Rajasthan Muslim Forum, said, "Ours is a secular nation. How can the government compel students to commemorate the demolition of a mosque," he wondered.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE THE AMAZING NEW PAIR OF SHOES I GOT TODAY, DEAR!
THAT'S GREAT, HONEY!!
THEY WERE SO PRISTINE, I WAS TOO SCARED TO EVEN TRY THEM ON!
THEN HOW WILL YOU KNOW THEY FIT OK?
I WON'T! THEY'RE SO PERFECT, I'LL NEVER BRING MYSELF TO WEAR THEM ANYWAY!

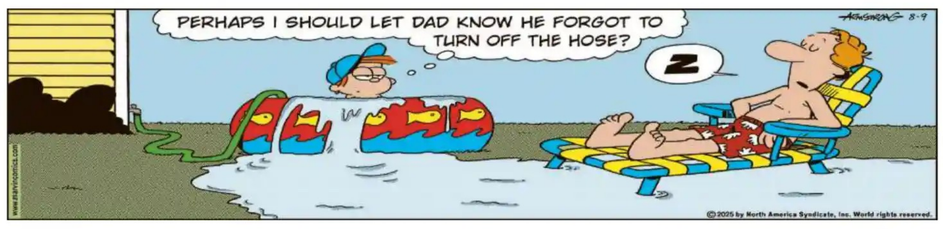
Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

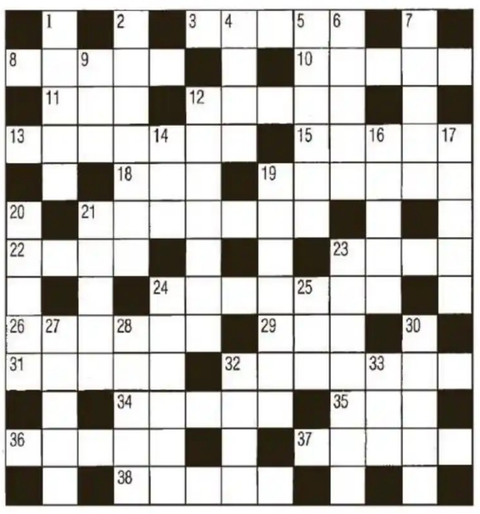
Peanuts

HEY, "CRYBABY," WHY DON'T YOU SHUT UP AND SERVE?
THESE BALLS FEEL TOO LIGHT! MY SHOULDER HURTS! THE SUN IS KILLING ME! THE NET LOOKS TOO HIGH!
I SAID," SHUT UP AND SERVE!"
NOW YOU'RE TRYING TO PSYCHE ME OUT!!

Marvin



CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12299



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
3 They're lazy and get the boss upset about money (5)
8 He's nominally eager to get to the end of the road (5)
10 Apparently quarrelsome oarsman? (5)
11 Important part of Denbigh (3)
12 The sort of profit Clare made (5)
13 Run out of line, to be honest (7)
15 Stop using middlemen, just in case (5)
18 View from the bishop's window (3)
19 Boat returning from a fruitless event (6)
21 A son sat playing them at the piano (7)
22 The place Oscar managed (4)
23 Stitched up in various ways (4)
24 Deserved to get home at last, tired out! (7)
26 Twenty runs at a time? (6)
29 In an arable area, it's green (3)
31 Radio equipment to get the melody right (5)
32 A master gets a laboratory in a state (7)
34 That saucy old diva (5)
35 Spin out part of the weekend (3)
36 A removal sign (5)
37 Gave a hand (5)
38 A stand seat (5)

DOWN
1 Possibly bears a sword (5)
2 Puts oneself down as a joiner (5,2)
4 Savage yet flowery entertainer? (4)
5 Pairs responsible for holdups (6)
6 Wild roses can give pain (5)
7 Can be eaten in quiet relaxation (5)
9 By way of a Roman road (3)
12 Damages many parts of the house (7)
14 Mr Livingstone from Twickenham (3)
16 Required to make a desk (5)
17 In Ireland, an antelope (5)
19 Such ice gets Ivan all upset (7)
20 Roll down to the sea (5)
21 It may have more beautiful customers (5)
23 Not marine insects but U.S. servicemen (7)
24 Just superlative! (6)
25 One of those stirring times? (3)
27 An immortal with whom I'd go to tea! (5)
28 Twin brother sure to stagger about a lot (5)
30 Fragrance to sell around Maidenhead (5)
32 His brother struck him as murderous (4)
33 Otherwise called extract of sea kale (3)

ACROSS
3 Take unlawfully (5)
8 Fret (5)
10 Light boat (5)
11 Large road vehicle (3)
12 Influence (5)
13 Word for word (7)
15 Bravery award (5)
18 Pen part (3)
19 Tranquil (6)
21 Muslim fast (7)
22 Bucket (4)
23 Harvest (4)
24 Tutor (7)
26 Belief (6)
29 To strike (3)
31 Spanish man (5)
32 Meeting for discussion (7)
34 Of the nose (5)
35 Pistachio, say (3)
36 Deluge (5)
37 Of the moon (5)
38 Prepared (5)

DOWN
1 Songbird (5)
2 Arms depot (7)
4 Plough (4)
5 Insight (6)
6 Afterwards (5)
7 Muslim holy book (5)
9 Groove (3)
12 Nightclub show (7)
14 Raised edge (3)
16 Postpone (5)
17 Jumps (5)
19 School bag (7)
20 Glasses (5)
21 Mature (5)
23 Entourage (7)
24 Declamation (6)
25 That man (3)
27 Kingdom (5)
28 Person giving blood (5)
30 Ending in death (5)
32 Beach grains (4)
33 Religious sister (3)

SOLUTIONS TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2656

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1 Egotism, 5 Student, 9 Interim, 10 Veteran, 11 Aegis, 12 Canaletto, 13 Hindrance, 15 Focus, 16 At one, 18 Wisecrack, 21 Get across, 24 Felon, 25 Emanate, 26 Uncover, 27 Tidings, 28 Assured.

DOWN: 1 Epitaph, 2 Octagon, 3 In reserve, 4 Mimic, 5 Seven seas, 6 Until, 7 Erratic, 8 Tenuous, 14 Newcomers, 15 Face facts, 16 Augment, 17 Outward, 19 All over, 20 Kindred, 22 Chain, 23 Sousa.

◆SU-DO-KU-6765◆

9		6	2				5	
						3		
1			8	5				
3	6	9			1	4	8	
	8	4	6			9	7	1
				9	8			4
		3						
	5				2	6		3

medium

5	2	3	8	6	9	1	4	7
8	7	1	4	3	2	9	6	5
9	4	6	7	5	1	2	8	3
2	8	7	6	1	4	3	5	9
3	5	4	9	2	8	7	1	6
6	1	9	3	7	5	4	2	8
1	3	2	5	8	7	6	9	4
4	6	8	1	9	3	5	7	2
7	9	5	2	4	6	8	3	1

SOLUTION TO 6764

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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B3 O1 E1 R1 S1 D2 E1	RACK 1
W4 E1 O1 R1 D2 D2 C3 — 4th Letter Double	RACK 2
K5 W4 R1 A1 A1 E1 E1 — Double Word Score	RACK 3
T1 I1 O1 L1 M3 O1 N1 — Triple Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 185-195
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

T1 O1 U1 G2 H4 E1 N1	RACK 1 =	69
L1 O1 R1 D2 E1 D2	RACK 2 =	8
S1 U1 L1 P3 H4 U1 R1	RACK 3 =	86
A1 P3 I1 S1 H4 L1 Y4	RACK 4 =	65
D2 U1 A1 L1 L1 Y4	RACK 5 =	30
PAR SCORE 170-180	JUDD'S TOTAL	258

HITORI-3219

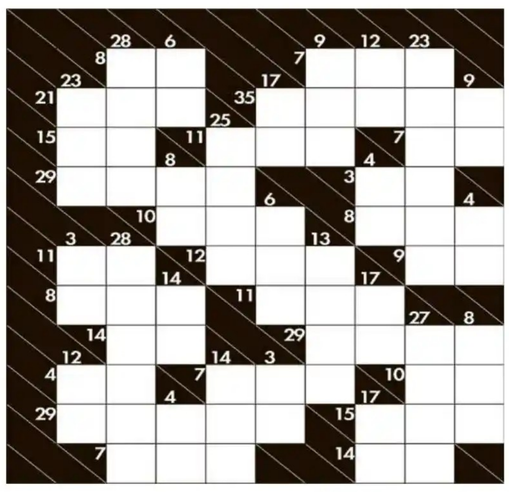
6	8	5	7	2	6	1	4
4	6	3	6	7	3	6	1
8	4	6	6	5	3	7	3
5	2	8	6	3	4	8	6
3	6	1	8	4	2	4	5
7	5	2	4	1	8	4	3
2	6	6	3	4	1	5	6
6	6	2	1	3	7	3	4

SOLUTION TO 3218

5	■	3	1	■	7	6	■
6	5	2	■	4	8	■	3
■	1	7	5	■	4	3	8
1	8	4	7	5	6	2	■
■	3	8	6	7	5	■	4
8	6	■	2	■	1	7	5
3	7	6	4	8	■	1	■
■	4	■	8	■	3	5	7

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3219



SOLUTION TO 3218

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3752

■				1				■
	■		9		7		■	1
		■			6	■		5
			■	7	■	3		
4		3	5	2				
	8		■		3			
9	4	1	6		8	■		2
	■	8					■	
■						8	4	■

SOLUTION TO 3751

2	7	3	9	5	1	4	8	6
9	6	5	4	8	7	1	3	2
1	4	8	6	2	3	5	9	7
6	5	2	7	3	8	9	4	1
4	3	1	2	9	6	8	7	5
8	9	7	1	4	5	6	2	3
5	1	4	8	7	2	3	6	9
3	2	9	5	6	4	7	1	8
7	8	6	3	1	9	2	5	4

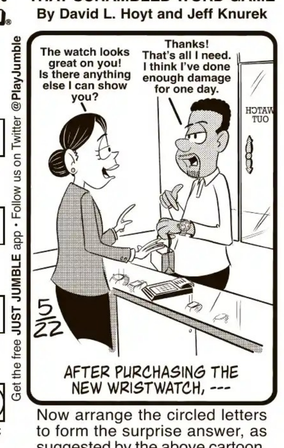
To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MPEYT
VIAEW
GOIBOE
SOMTTU


The watch looks great on you! Is there anything else I can show you?
Thanks! That's all I need. I think I've done enough damage for one day.
AFTER PURCHASING THE NEW WRISTWATCH, ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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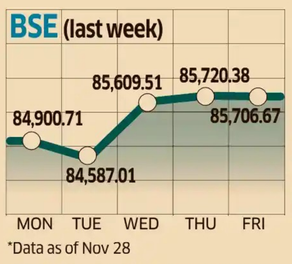
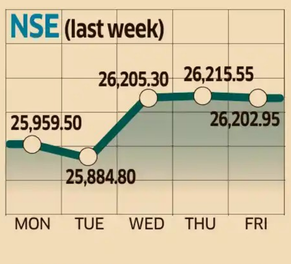
(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: WEIGH EJECT DOCKET OCCUPY
Answer: The groundhogs' oak table was in horrible shape, so they decided that they — "WOODCHUCK" IT



*Data as of Nov 28

TOP GAINERS		TOP LOSERS	
TECHM	3.38%	BHARTIARTL	-2.86%
BAJFINANCE	3.25%	POWERGRID	-2.79%
SUNPHARMA	2.89%	TRENT	-2.51%
ADANIPORTS	2.51%	TMPV	-1.49%
BAJAJFINSV	1.96%	BEL	-1.12%

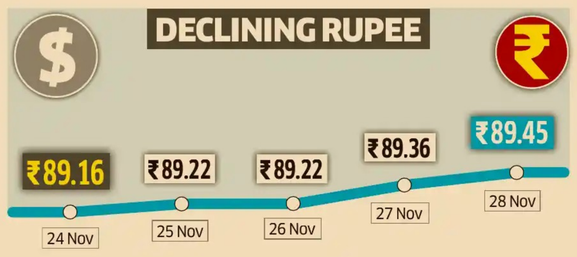


TOP GAINERS		TOP LOSERS	
HINDALCO IND	3.95%	ADANI ENT	-5.87%
TECH MAHINDRA	3.82%	BHARTI AIRTEL	-2.83%
SHRIRAM FIN	3.44%	SBI LIFE INS	-2.79%
BAJAJ FINANCE	3.33%	POWER GRID	-2.76%
SUN PHARMA	2.92%	TRENT LTD	-2.49%

Sensex (52-week)
Nov 28, 2024: 79,043.74 | Nov 28, 2025: 85,706.67 | 8.43%

Nifty (52-week)
Nov 28, 2024: 23,914.15 | Nov 28, 2025: 26,202.95 | 9.57%

10-year Bond yield 6.52%



Exchange Rates*

Dollar	₹89.45	SGD	₹68.81
Pound	₹118.26	Yen (100 units)	₹57.20
Euro	₹103.63		

*Price at which banks sell

Crude Oil Rate ($ per barrel)
BRENT CRUDE
$63.20*
-0.22%
*Rate as of Nov 28

Bengaluru fuel pump price*
(Retail)
Petrol* ₹102.92 ₹0%
Diesel* ₹90.99 ₹0%
*Rates as of Nov 30 #Rate change compared with yesterday

Commodity watch

COFFEE

Category	Rate (Rs per 50 kg)*
Arabica Parchment	₹27250 - 28000
Arabica Cherry	₹13500 - 15500
Robusta Parchment	₹17500 - 18000
Robusta Cherry	₹10400 - 11250

*Rates as on Nov 27

Other Commodities
Silkworm cocoon (Rs per kg)*

Bivoltine (BV)	₹800
Cross Breed (CB)	₹701

*Average rates as on Nov 28

GIFT City: India's emerging rival to Dubai and Singapore

Gujarat's smart financial hub attracts global capital and firms

MAHESH KULKARNI
GANDHINAGAR, DHNS

In 2001, the Bhuj earthquake shattered Gujarat, leaving deep physical and emotional wounds. It crippled the state's economy. Seven months later, communal riots further damaged the state's image, hurting investor confidence. The then chief minister of the state, Narendra Modi swung into action and launched the first Vibrant Gujarat Summit in 2003, not just to attract investment, but to restore Gujarat's dignity and credibility. Modi personally made 40-50 phone calls daily to industrialists, to rebuild trust.

Further, to reposition Gujarat as an attractive investment destination, Modi conceived Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in 2007. His vision was clear: to create in India what Singapore, Dubai, Hong Kong, and London represent to the world, an international financial and technology hub with next-generation urban infrastructure. It was not just an international financial services centre (IFSC), but India's first integrated greenfield smart city, where world-class urban design, technology, sustainability, and quality of life converge.

To execute this, his administration established a joint venture company, Gujarat International Finance Tec-City Company Limited (GIFTCL), as a partnership between the state-owned Gujarat Urban Development Company Ltd (GUDCL) and the private infrastructure giant IL&FS.

Spread across 900 acres of waste land on the banks of the Sabarmati river, GIFT City is just a 20-minute drive from Ahmedabad's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport and 15 minutes from the bullet train terminus.

Eighteen years later, Modi's gamble has paid off richly. The sprawling complex, India's first operational smart city, is rapidly reshaping the country's ambitions for global financial leadership.

Global banks are flocking to the newest finance hub to take advantage of the nation's surging demand for US-dollar denominated debt, taking a key business away from Asia's dominant finance hubs, such as Hong Kong and Singapore. Banks in GIFT City disbursed nearly $20 billion in dollar loans to Indian corporates in the fiscal year ended March, 2025.

Today, GIFT City hosts 1,034 registered entities and 38 banks with $100.14 billion in assets. Ranked 46th globally on the Global Financial Centres Index (its highest ever), GIFT City has become the primary mechanism through which global capital — sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, and hedge funds among others access India's $5 trillion growth opportunity.

Dipesh Shah, Executive Director (Development), IFSCA, said the cost of operation in GIFT City is one fifth of the total cost incurred in any other financial services centres in the world. A lot of Indian corporates are borrowing from GIFT City, as opposed to Dubai, Singapore, Hong Kong or London, earlier.

"In terms of the total capital raised, (banks operating from GIFT City have raised $58 billion) GIFT City has already overtaken Abu Dhabi and the next target is Dubai, Singapore, and Hong Kong. London and New York come subsequently," Shah said.

Prime Minister Modi, in 2022, launched the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX), the nation's first such exchange.

In May 2025, GIFT NIFTY (India's NSE derivatives contract traded in GIFT IFSC) recorded a monthly turnover of $102.35 billion, signaling growing confidence from global investors.

"GIFT City is steadily realising its vision of becoming India's foremost global financial and technology hub. As the country's only International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) and first operational smart city, GIFT City today hosts over a thousand financial and technology entities, including leading global banks, insurers, capital market players, fintechs, and Global Capability Centres (GCCs). The ecosystem is expanding rapidly, supported by world-class infrastructure such as district cooling, automated waste collection, integrated utility tunnels, and seamless multi-modal connectivity including Metro access," said Sanjay Kaul, Managing Director & Group CEO, GIFT City.

Global banks opening branches

Standard Chartered, HSBC, J.P. Morgan, Citi, Deutsche Bank, BNP Paribas, and Barclays operate from GIFT City. The aggregate size of banking assets stands at $100.14 billion. Cumulative banking transactions have reached $142.98 billion.

They all came for a simple reason: this is where India raises capital now. Over the last one year, GIFT City accounts for $19 billion External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs), which is 36% of the total of $61 billion ECBs raised in the country. This share is further expected to go up.

The insurance ecosystem includes 52 insurance and intermediary entities like GIC Re, LIC, HDFC Life, and ICICI Lombard. Insurance and reinsurance entities have recorded $425 million in gross premiums.

The regulatory framework is transparent and efficient. The tax structure is aggressive: 10-year income tax exemptions, zero GST on IFSC transactions, zero security transaction tax. State subsidies cover 100% of stamp duty and electricity duty. These incentives exist nowhere else globally, not in London, Singapore, or Hong Kong.

Indian companies now bypass traditional offshore hubs to borrow from GIFT City. The cost is lower. The process is faster. The regulator, IFSCA, understands India's development agenda.

"GIFT IFSC is contributing to India's growth by enabling global capital to be intermediated onshore rather than through foreign jurisdictions. IFSC Banking Units have facilitated over $54 billion of foreign currency loans and $15.43 billion of trade finance, supporting the expansion of Indian corporates, while reducing external intermediation costs," said K Rajaraman, Chairperson, International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).

The FinTech Edge

Wipro, Infosys, Cognizant, and Hexaware operate at GIFT City with 2,500 employees. Twenty FinTech entities and eight sandbox participants are building tomorrow's financial infrastructure.

Beyond banking and finance, GIFT City has attracted semiconductor and energy companies. Infineon Technologies operates substantial semiconductor and systems operations with approximately 750 employees, while France-based Technip Energies employs around 500 professionals. Tech consulting firms like Accenture and Capgemini have also planted their flags, with the latter planning expansion to nearly 1,000 employees.

Smart City, Smart Infrastructure

What makes GIFT City different is what lies beneath. A 16-km underground utility tunnel houses power, water, sewage, and waste systems. There is no digging. Future repairs happen within the tunnel.

Power reliability: 99.999% uptime (5.3 minutes of potential outages annually). Water drinkable from any tap, zero discharge. District cooling consumes 30% less energy than traditional AC.

A Command & Control Centre monitors 70,000 real-time data points, managing the entire city as one integrated system.

Access to talent and expertise

With leading institutions like IIM Ahmedabad, IIT Gandhinagar, Gujarat Maritime University etc. nearby and multiple other colleges and universities in and around, GIFT City benefits from a talent pool of 38,000 annual graduates in AI, Data Science, IT, and Computer Science.

Currently, 28,000 people are working in GIFT City, and it is expected to touch 1 lakh by 2030, he said.

It has also emerged as India's first gateway for international education in finance and technology, with Deakin University (Australia) and University of Wollongong (Australia) launched in 2024, and Coventry University (UK) and Queen's University (UK) set to open in 2026.

Gujarat has 86,000 software engineers, 71,000 finance professionals, and 21,000 management experts. AI-skilled talent in Ahmedabad surged 142% in the past year.

"As we enter the next phase, our focus is on deepening global integration, strengthening talent pipelines, enabling innovation, and accelerating high-value economic activity. GIFT City is emerging as a project of national importance — a gateway for global capital, global capabilities, and global opportunities — and the journey ahead is even more promising," Kaul added.

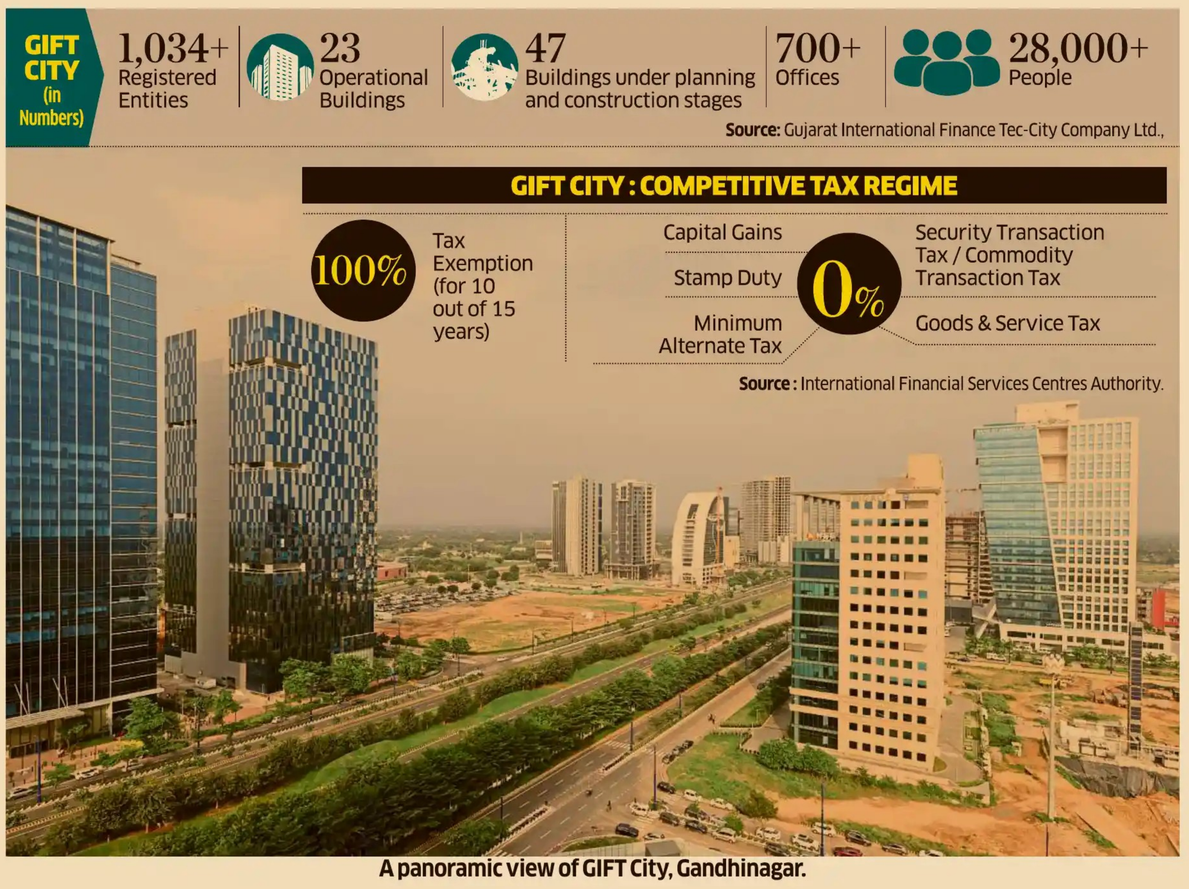
Demand for real estate

Complementing its bustling multi-services SEZ, which supports high-growth sectors such as banking, FinTech, IT and capital markets, it is also emerging as a significant aircraft and ship-leasing hub, with several companies shifting operations.

The real estate market is witnessing a steady rise in residential sales. Prices are firming up and commercial demand remains steady. As a result, the area is becoming a preferred destination for global firms, investors and NRIs.

"With supportive regulations, luxury living options and the momentum around Ahmedabad's upcoming Commonwealth Games 2030, GIFT City presents a strong opportunity for long-term value creation and seamless integration with global financial growth," said Sumeet Chunkhare, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer, Sobha Ltd. The company is building its third project in GIFT City.

GIFT City's expansion and FinTech focus highlight India's readiness for future financial leadership. With sustainability and innovation at its core, it is poised to anchor India's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.


GIFT CITY (in Numbers)
1,034+ Registered Entities
23 Operational Buildings
47 Buildings under planning and construction stages
700+ Offices
28,000+ People
Source: Gujarat International Finance Tec-City Company Ltd.,
GIFT CITY : COMPETITIVE TAX REGIME
100% Tax Exemption (for 10 out of 15 years)
0%
Capital Gains
Stamp Duty
Minimum Alternate Tax
Security Transaction Tax / Commodity Transaction Tax
Goods & Service Tax
Source : International Financial Services Centres Authority.

A panoramic view of GIFT City, Gandhinagar.

Robust GDP growth may prompt RBI to keep interest rates unchanged

Monetary policy committee meeting to be held from Dec 3-5

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to keep key policy interest rates unchanged in its monetary policy review this week, following a better-than-expected GDP growth numbers, even as inflation projections remain subdued due to GST rate rationalisation and good kharif harvest, analysts said.

The central bank's rate setting panel Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is scheduled to meet from December 3-5.

According to analysts, the MPC faces a delicate decision due to favourable numbers on inflation, as well as the economic growth front. "While a rate cut was anticipated, strong growth alongside low inflation reduces the likelihood of one this quarter. The central bank may instead wait until February, when Q4 growth is expected to moderate, to recalibrate policy," said Rumki Majumdar, Economist at Deloitte India.

The RBI has kept the key policy interest rates unchanged since August, after lowering it by 100 basis points in the first half of 2025. While the majority of the analysts see no change in the policy rates, some argue that the central bank may opt for a 25 basis points cut, considering the subdued inflation projections. The repo rate, or the interest at which the RBI lends money to the commercial banks, currently stands at 5.5%. It was last lowered in June.

"Expectations built till a few days back of a shallow rate cut of 25 bps appear to have faded as finer readings of the strong Q2 growth print and the evolving playbook make the choice tilted in favour of pause in December policy," SBI Research said in a report.

India Ratings and Research Chief Economist Devendra Kumar Pant said the RBI is likely to cut policy interest rates by 25-50 basis points in the current fiscal. "Strong real growth and weak nominal growth make monetary policy decision difficult, while strong 8% growth in 1H FY26 does not support argument for monetary easing, however, weak inflation and nominal GDP growth in H1FY26 much lower than the budgeted GDP growth makes a case for monetary easing," Pant said.

India's GDP growth jumped to a six-quarter high of 8.2% in July-September period, exceeding the RBI as well as other estimates by a wide margin, boosted by strong domestic demands, as per the National Statistics Office data released on Friday.

Normally, the central banks lower policy rates to boost consumption when the economic growth, especially demand is weak.

However, record low inflation gives RBI room to further boost consumption. The annual retail inflation fell to 0.25% in October, the lowest since the Consumer Price Index (CPI) data series was introduced in 2015.

DH INTERVIEW

'It's an exciting time than ever to be in the software industry'

There is a strong talent pipeline in India, and this energy of innovation is amazing here. In an interaction with **Uma Kannan** of *DH*, SAP Business Technology Platform President and Member of the Extended Board **Michael Ameling** said it's an exciting time, more than ever, to be in the software industry. He also mentioned that there is huge opportunity for AI in India, and that companies and providers are taking this adoption seriously here. Edited excerpts:

How are you looking at the AI revolution taking place in India? Where does the country stand?

Many innovations and developments are done here in India. A large portion of the AI delivery comes out of the country. This starts with foundational work, meaning prerequisites. You need to have a database that is AI-ready. You need to have certain infrastructure that gives you access to underlying models. Then, innovations are built on top of it. Many of these agents, which we have delivered and announced at our key events, are delivered here in India. Secondly, the country contributes heavily to the distribution of AI.

Every company is now trying to adopt AI. Will AI replace coders' jobs at the beginning level, since it's automating some tasks traditionally done by entry-level coders?

We had this discussion when AI came a few years ago. What AI did best was creating a test case. Testing code. You ask them (freshers) first to learn code. When I went to school, in the initial years, I was not able to use a calculator because I needed to understand the mechanics. Later we used it. Similarly, you need to understand the mechanics, you need to study what engineering means. You (developers) show me how you use AI to develop, instead of showing me how you can do it without AI.

I have been asked this question as well: on the one hand, there's this opinion, we have a shortage of developers, and on the other, AI is replacing developers. It can't be true at the same time. My recommendation to freshers is that you need to understand the mechanics and how AI works. It helps you improve, and provides suggestions. With this knowledge, you need to have a dialogue, you need to ask, is this right? You need to think with them and don't take everything for granted. It means developers have a bright future, because they will shape the future of our software industry with AI. Even if you think about these freshers, they would have a faster journey to get into technology, the onboarding and upskilling will be faster. Tasks will get complex, but they will focus on different things. Instead of writing code, they will write agents who write code. The purpose is different, but you still need engineers and developers to do this. This is where it's moving. We strongly believe in this. Otherwise, we wouldn't invest much in developers. It's an exciting time more than ever to be in the software industry, as how we work will be different.

When you talk about AI innovation, where is it exactly heading? Any particular area you are seeing growth, like health, retail, among your customers?

Agents are the key because you will see functionality moving into agentic behaviour. That's the reason why we are focused on agents. These are real agents, autonomous working artifacts. What is even more exciting is the agent-to-agent communication. These agents will talk to other agents. The next agent will talk to a third-party agent. We can bring finance, procurement, supply-chain, and manufacturing. We can bring this knowledge together with agents and solve complex business problems. That's where it's moving. Agents are bringing more value in combining them together. We at SAP, since we cover the entire value-chain, have a huge opportunity doing this.

Currently, two agents can communicate. In future, are there possibilities that many more agents can communicate across domains/verticals? Is there any limitation right now in terms of agents?

Currently, yes, there are limitations. Firstly, if you look at MCP (Model Context Protocol) servers, you hear this: MCP servers are the answer for everything, which is not the truth. There are limits. Large language models struggle as soon as it comes to more than 20 MCP tools. In agent-to-agent communications, there are limits today because this entire orchestration is not easy. For example, when you have different models, you want to change them on the fly. We have this prompt optimiser where you can have an abstract layer to resist. This is solved, but this is evolving at tremendous speed. What we are envisioning is that Joule (AI co-pilot) will become our agent orchestrator.

The first assistant we delivered is a combination of agents. In our support, you can classify support tickets by complexity. The first natural thing is that you have an agent who answers simple queries. Then you can imagine there is a more complex question. This is a more expensive and time-consuming task. You can deliver multiple agents who solve complex problems. You'd be trained in this model.

Our support is working with a set of 20 agents. Depending on the need, what is incoming, helping us serve and support these tickets. This has a tremendous advantage, because you're more responsive to the customer. The quality of tickets is increasing, and it saves cost. These are the use cases we need to look at. Currently, we are focusing on delivering in these two domains, these agents. We are bringing them together, because if you're about the contingent workforce and you want to do planning, you need your finance data and you have finance agents working in the background. This is happening; we have agents across different domains. They get data from different sources, from finance to procurement to manufacturing. We combine this. Do we have complete agents that cover the entire value-chain? This is not the case yet, but it's moving in that direction.

TOP PICKS

The data is sourced from Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited

Reliance
(ID: RELIANCE)
BUY
Upside +12%**
Last close ₹1,569
Target: ₹1,765*

HCL Tech
(ID: HCLTECH)
BUY
Upside +11%**
Last close ₹1,624
Target: ₹1,800*

M&M
(ID: M&M)
BUY
Upside +14%**
Last close ₹3,761
Target: ₹4,275*

Lemon Tree Hotels
(ID: LEMONTREE)
BUY
Upside +27%**
Last close ₹158
Target: ₹200*

BEL
(ID: BEL)
BUY
Upside +21%**
Last close ₹412
Target: ₹500*

* Target price has been calculated on the basis of fundamentals ** Upside refers to more value stock is expected to generate than its current price

The spending saving conundrum

Investors sometimes perceive financial advice to be harsh, especially when it challenges the way they think about money. Take the Sridhar and Rekha Pai, whose daughter's marriage is being planned next year. It is their dream to have a beautifully crafted wedding for their daughter, given that their own marriage was a court marriage. While they do not aspire to host a big, fat wedding, the wedding expenses will make a dent in their savings. The Pai's financial advisor has cautioned them against this spending and the impact it will have towards their retirement savings.

This is a common dilemma individuals face – save or spend. It ultimately boils down to choosing retirement savings or spending on essential goals like education or marriage. Most parents end up prioritising children's needs over their retirement driven by their parental responsibilities. The issue is that people go completely overboard on spending for kids and consequently put their retirement savings on a back burner.

The Pais contention is that this is an important life event for them and hence they are willing to make the extra spend, as they have been otherwise quite balanced with their spending. People across generations grappling the same predicament – how to have enough money to live well and fulfill their aspirations.

MRIN AGARWAL
FINANCIAL EDUCATOR, FOUNDER DIRECTOR OF FINSAFE INDIA PVT. LTD

Here are a few things to consider:

Firstly, understand that there needs to be a balance between saving and spending. That balance is unique for each individual. Think of it akin to steps taken to maintain physical health. Excessive eating and lack of exercise results in poor health. Most people balance diet and exercise to remain fit. Similarly, low savings due to excessive spending, especially lifestyle spending, cannot lead to financial security.

This balance can be achieved by figuring out expenses which will make a difference to your life and not just your lifestyle. Think about what will make life more fulfilling and what expenses you can do away with. For example, buying a luxury SUV on EMI will improve social standing but would one then be able to fufulil an important goal. Ultimately, one will need to give up on some desires to build a better future. It is akin to foregoing certain foods for better health.

Significant effort is taken to maintain physical health because its benefits are tangible and immediate, whereas financial health benefits are only seen gradually in the long term. Financial health needs to be thought of like physical health and a balance between spending and saving needs to be created. A 60:40 allocation between expenses and savings as a percentage of take home is recommended on a regular basis. For big expenses which may be unplanned for, work out the best possible budget which may mean cutting down on some things. Like the Pais decided on moderately priced decorations and conducting one function at home with only family members. One can also consider having the children contribute towards these expenses.

It is essential to cultivate a balance between saving and spending early. If this has not been done, prioritise creating that balance now, recognising that one cannot have it all.

Last window to disclose your foreign assets, income

FM likely to inform Lok Sabha about black money brought back today

PRABHAKAR K S

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), in its latest initiative, asked taxpayers to disclose their foreign assets and income voluntarily by sending emails and text messages. Through Non-intrusive Usage of Data to Guide and Enable (NUDGE) initiative, the tax department is targeting about 25,000 high-risk cases. That is, not all taxpayers, but only those who intentionally or inadvertently missed or did not disclose their assets situated outside India or income received from abroad in their returns filed recently.

Accurate reporting and complying with Schedule Foreign Assets (Schedule FA) and Foreign Source Income (Schedule FSI) in income tax returns is mandatory under the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015. Non-compliance will invite stringent penalty provisions and unforeseeable circumstances. Let us look at the last opportunity, which taxpayers should avail by December 31, 2025, to disclose accurately, and come clean.

What is a foreign asset and income?

For the black money law, the following are scheduled as foreign assets – foreign bank accounts, foreign depository accounts, foreign equity and debt interest, foreign cash value insurance contracts or annuity contracts, trusts outside India, in which a taxpayer is a trustee, beneficiary or settlor, financial interest in any entity or business, accounts in which a taxpayer is/was having/had signing authority, immovable property or other capital assets outside India, and foreign custodial account.

Who should disclose?

Technically, only a resident taxpayer, that is, who is residing in India for 182 days or more during the previous year; or 60 days or more during the previous year; and 365 days or more during the previous four years immediately preceding the relevant previous year, should disclose those assets held abroad / income earned from foreign source, at any time during the calendar year 2024. Even if his/her income is below the taxable limit, and such assets were acquired from disclosed sources already.

How to disclose?

The taxpayers who have received or are yet to receive an email and text message in the coming days should immediately revise their recently filed returns and provide mandatory details in the Schedule FA and Schedule FSI in ITR 2 or ITR 3 by filing a revised return, accurately.

Other taxpayers, though not having received such an email and text message, but themselves believe that there was an omission of reporting their foreign assets and/or income, also should do it now by filing a revised return or even updating their last four assessment years' returns filed during the previous years.

In any case, if a taxpayer missed the extended due date for filing his/her return, that is, September 16, 2025, and yet to file his/her current assessment year's return, can still file a 'Belated Return' with applicable interest, late fee, and disclose the above assets or income, if he/she was in possess. By filing a revised or belated, or updated return, as the case may be, a taxpayer can escape the department's wrath and avoid severe consequences that follow later.

What are the consequences for non-disclosure?

Failure to comply in disclosing a foreign asset held abroad or income earned in foreign shores in the return will invite a penalty of Rs 10 lakh.

Non-compliance can also lead to rigorous imprisonment from six months to seven years, but only in serious cases. The penalty/prosecution will come into picture only when the aggregate value of those assets — other than immovable property — exceeds Rs 20 lakh. Recently, the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal's Mumbai Bench in Vinil Venugopal v. DDIT (Inv) held that the penalty for non-disclosure of foreign assets in Schedule FA is not mandatory.

The tax department receives information relating to foreign financial assets of Indian residents from other tax jurisdictions through the Common Reporting Standards (CRS) and from the United States under the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) arrangements.

Last year, the tax department's same initiative yielded positive results. A total of 24,678 taxpayers had revised their originally filed income tax returns and disclosed foreign assets amounting to Rs 29,208 crore and foreign income of Rs 1,089.88 crore.

Coincidently, the Union Finance Minister is likely to apprise the Lok Sabha about the black money brought back and taken out from the country during the last 10 years today. Today, the first day of the Winter Session, the finance minister's written reply will be tabled in the House.

(The writer is Founder & CEO, Shree Tax Chambers)

Monetary policy, global trends to drive markets

Last week, Nifty hit record high of 26,310 after 14 months of consolidation

SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA

This week, Indian equities are poised to trade firm, supported by expectations of policy easing from both the RBI and the US Federal Reserve, stronger demand visibility, and steady domestic flows. Sentiment has also improved as the India–US trade agreement reportedly enters its final negotiation phase. Market participants will closely track the RBI's policy outcome, while global cues—particularly US jobless claims, PMI data and JOLTS job openings—may shape the near-term tone for interest-rate expectations.

Last week, Indian equities inched higher as the Nifty broke out to a record high of 26,310 after nearly 14 months of consolidation, before closing the week with a 0.6% gain. Market participation remained broad-based, with the Nifty Midcap index also scaling fresh highs, signalling sustained investor appetite beyond large caps. Large caps continued to draw inflows, while the Midcap100 declined 0.8% and the Smallcap100 fell 2.2% on a weekly basis. Sector-wise, IT led weekly gains (+1.6%), followed by Auto (+1.1%) and Private Banks (+0.7%).

Globally, risk sentiment improved as softer inflation prints and slower growth data reinforced expectations of coordinated rate cuts. Easing geopolitical tensions and more reasonable valuations further supported foreign participation, helping sustain the constructive setup. Back home, macro fundamentals remain supportive, with India's Q2 GDP growing at 8.2%, up from 7.8% in the previous quarter—underscoring resilient consumption and broad-based economic strength.

The Union Cabinet approved a Rs 7,280-crore scheme to build a domestic supply chain for sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPMs), targeting an annual manufacturing capacity of 6,000 metric tonnes. The move aims to cover the full value-chain — from rare-earth oxides to finished magnets — reducing import reliance and supporting key sectors including electric vehicles, renewable energy, electronics, aerospace and defence.

Domestically, structural reforms remained in focus with the rollout of India's new Labour Codes—consolidating 29 fragmented laws into a unified framework designed to streamline compliance and expand formal workforce benefits, including for gig and fixed-term workers. While the reform strengthens India's competitive positioning in global supply chains and improves ESG alignment, labour-intensive industries may face near-term cost adjustments before benefits fully accrue.

Sectorally, consumption trends also remained encouraging. The Nifty Auto index gained ₹1.1%, with retail demand holding firm in November 2025 despite the post-festive period. Rural recovery, favourable taxation and replacement demand continue to support volumes. Auto stocks may remain in focus as companies release monthly sales updates. SUVs continue to lead passenger vehicle demand, two-wheelers are improving across entry and premium categories, commercial vehicle demand remains mixed and tractor sales reflect healthy rural sentiment.

India's BFSI market now stands at ₹Rs 105 lakh crore in market capitalisation. While banks remain dominant, their share has reduced to ₹54% from ₹70% in FY15 in the BFSI ecosystem, reflecting the rapid rise of insurance, capital markets platforms and digital-native financial companies. The structural broadening of the sector is expected to continue, with several scaled fintech and wealth-tech platforms yet to list.

The Nifty IT index gained ₹1.6%, aided by expectations of US rate cuts. Early sector commentary suggests a cyclical recovery as AI spending moves from infrastructure build-out to deployment. Deal momentum is stabilising, discretionary budgets are normalising and visibility for a multi-year AI adoption cycle is improving. With the sector's index weight at a decade low but profitability intact, valuations remain favourable.

Overall, the market backdrop remains constructive, supported by resilient macros, improving liquidity, and rising policy clarity. With anticipated rate cuts and the potential conclusion of the India–US trade pact acting as incremental triggers, equities may continue to trade with a gradual upward bias in the near term.

(The writer is Head of Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited)

Mcap of 7 of top-10 most valued firms climbs by Rs 96,201 crore

NEW DELHI, PTI: The combined market valuation of seven of the top-10 most valued firms climbed Rs 96,200.95 crore last week, with Reliance Industries and Bajaj Finance stealing the show, in tandem with an optimistic trend in equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark climbed 474.75 points or 0.55%. On Thursday, the Sensex hit a record high of 86,055.86.

From the top-10 pack, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys, Bajaj Finance and Hindustan Unilever were the gainers, while Bharti Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) faced erosion from their valuation.

Reliance Industries added Rs 28,282.86 crore, taking its market valuation to Rs 21,20,335.47 crore.

The valuation of Bajaj Finance climbed Rs 20,347.52 crore to Rs 6,45,676.11 crore.

HDFC Bank's valuation jumped Rs 13,611.11 crore to Rs 15,48,743.67 crore, and that of ICICI Bank surged by Rs 13,599.62 crore to Rs 9,92,725.97 crore.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of Hindustan Unilever edged higher by Rs 7,671.41 crore to Rs 5,79,644.16 crore, and that of State Bank of India went up by Rs 6,415.28 crore to Rs 9,04,185.15 crore.

The valuation of Infosys climbed Rs 6,273.15 crore to Rs 6,47,961.98 crore.

However, the mcap of Bharti Airtel dropped by Rs 35,239.01 crore to Rs 11,98,040.84 crore.

LIC's mcap declined by Rs 4,996.75 crore to Rs 5,65,581.29 crore, and that of TCS dipped by Rs 3,762.81 crore to Rs 11,35,952.85 crore.

In the ranking of top-10 firms, Reliance Industries was leading the pack, followed by HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, TCS, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever and LIC.

Two dozen firms line up Rs 40,000-crore public offers in December-January

NEW DELHI, PTI: The IPO momentum shows no signs of slowing, with another two dozen companies, including ICICI Prudential AMC, Meesho and Juniper Green Energy, preparing to launch their public issues that could collectively raise nearly Rs 40,000 crore over the next two months, merchant bankers said.

Adding to this robust pipeline are prominent names such as AI firm Fractal Analytics, home and sleep solutions brand Wakefit Innovations, technology-led security and surveillance firm Innovatiview India, and hospital chain Park Medi World, they added.

This exceptional pipeline not only reflected the confidence of issuers, but also highlighted investors' appetite to seize listing-day gains or back companies with strong long-term growth potential.

Moreover, companies across the spectrum — large, mid- and small-cap — are gearing up to tap the IPO route in coming weeks.

Experts attribute this momentum to rising retail participation and resilient domestic inflows, which have been instrumental in sustaining the fund-raising surge.

So far this year, 96 firms have debuted on the stock exchanges, raising Rs 1.6 lakh crore. More than 40 of these listings occurred in the last three months alone, highlighting the heightened activity in the primary market.

In comparison, 91 public issues collectively mobilised Rs 1.6 lakh crore in 2024, supported by resilient retail participation, strong private capex, and a buoyant economy.

With several IPOs scheduled for December, the total fundraising in 2025 could touch Rs 2 lakh crore, setting a new record for India's primary markets, said Thomas Stephen, Head - Preferred, Anand Rathi Share and Stock Brokers. "This is remarkable given the global volatility and a muted secondary market. Strong domestic liquidity has supported high valuations, and mutual funds, earlier cautious on pre-IPO deals, are now meaningfully increasing allocations," Stephen added.

According to him, India's robust consumption story, aided by GST and income-tax rationalisation, has encouraged many consumer-facing businesses to consider listing.

DH REVIEW

iQOO 15: Well-packaged premium phone

ROHIT KVN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Last week, iQOO launched the new Android flagship iQOO 15. It comes with big upgrades in terms of processor, camera and battery capacity.

Design, build quality and display

It flaunts a flat display panel, which sits within a slim rectangular frame. On the sides, it has the matte-finished aluminium sides and on the back, it features high-quality fibreglass. It does a fine job with effectively resisting sweaty fingerprints smudges.

It comes with IP68 and IP69 ratings, meaning the device can survive up to 1.5 metres of water for close to 30 minutes and even withstand high-pressure water jets for at least 30 seconds.

The box includes a soft silicone case with raised edges, which doesn't add bulk but gives a firm grip for the fingers to hold the device and assures extra screen protection.

It is available in two colours— matte black Alpha Edition and the more expressive Legend Edition in white, with a tri-colour rhombus pattern inspired by checkered racing flags.

The company has incorporated RGB LED ring around the camera module that lights up for calls or notifications.

The 6.85-inch 2K+ AMOLED display is simply a joy. With 144Hz refresh rate, Dolby Vision, 6000 nits peak brightness, and anti-reflective coating, it performs superbly even in direct sunlight.

Scrolling and gaming feel fluid, and while streaming content on OTT apps, it offers a vibrant, immersive viewing experience.

Performance

Under the hood, the iQOO 15 packs Qualcomm's Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5, paired with Adreno 840 GPU and a dedicated Q3 gaming chip. This 3nm processor brings notable performance gains and efficiency improvements over the predecessor.

Combined with the massive 8000 mm² vapour chamber cooling system, the phone stays cool and stable during long gaming sessions or when running AI-heavy tools like Gemini or in-built generative photography features.

It ships with Android 16-based OriginOS 6.0, up to 16GB LPDDR5X RAM, and 512GB UFS 4.1 storage. The company is promising five years of OS updates and seven years of security patches.

Battery

Battery life is another strong suit of the iQOO 15. With 7,000mAh cell capacity, the device can easily last for one and a half days under normal usage.

The retail box comes with 100W wired fast charger. It can reach from zero to 50% under 35 minutes and hit 100% mark in about 65 minutes. The device also supports 40W wireless charging.

Photography

The triple 50MP setup covers wide, ultra-wide, and 3x telephoto needs. It also supports up to 100x digital zoom.

Photos in daylight conditions are really good and colour tones of the subject don't appear over-saturated much.

Whether in close-ups or expansive landscapes, the detail retention of iQOO camera is impressive. With portrait mode on, the device manages to deliver sharp photos with natural Bokeh effects in the background.

The device also features AI tools such as object eraser, UHD upscaling, and Colour Adjustment. The 32MP front camera does a fine job with delivering crisp selfies in almost all lighting conditions. Both the front and primary main cameras can record stable 4K videos.

Verdict

Overall, the iQOO 15 is a thoughtfully crafted flagship with elegant design, reliable camera and delivers smooth performance, and long battery life. The starting price of Rs 72,999 may feel steep compared to its predecessor, but rising component costs partly explain it.

Hasina issue won't deter ties with India: B'desh

Expects ex-PM's repatriation from New Delhi at the earliest

DHAKA, PTI

Bangladesh on Sunday said it expects the extradition of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina from India at the "earliest", but stressed that the "issue alone" would not stand as a barrier in bilateral ties with New Delhi.

The interim government's Foreign Affairs Adviser Mohammad Touhid Hossain made the remarks while talking to diplomatic reporters based in Dhaka.

"I think our (bilateral) relations won't (be) stuck on one issue alone," he said, when asked if better relations with New Delhi could be expected unless India repatriates the disposed Bangladesh premier.

Hossain, however, said that since Hasina was now a declared convict, Bangladesh "expects her repatriation from India at the earliest possible time". The former premier was sentenced to death in absentia on November 17 by a special tribunal for "crimes against humanity" over her government's brutal crackdown on student-led protests last year.

The student-led violent street protest termed the July Uprising toppled Hasina's Awami League regime on August 5, 2024, following which she took refuge in India. She was earlier declared a fugitive by a Bangladeshi court.

In response to another question about Dhaka's ties with New Delhi under the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government, Hossain said, "India needs some time to adjust to the new realities".

The adviser, however, said he was hopeful the two countries would witness better ties.

"We would like to have better working relations with India based on interest," he said.

Earlier on Wednesday, Hossain said India gave "no reply" to Bangladesh's earlier request seeking the extradition of Hasina, but Dhaka now expected a response from New Delhi as the "situation is different now" with the judicial process completed and the former premier convicted.

Ex-PM ordered 2009 killings, says panel

A commission set up to investigate a violent mutiny that saw dozens of senior army officers massacred 16 years ago on Sunday said former premier Sheikh Hasina had ordered the killings, reports AFP. Rampaging troops from the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) murdered 74 people, including military officers, during the two-day revolt that began in Dhaka and spread across the country in 2009, destabilising the government of then-premier Hasina weeks after she took office.

Sri Lanka flood, landslide toll rises to 334

More than a million people affected by Cyclone Ditwah

COLOMBO, AFP

The death toll from floods and landslides triggered by Cyclone Ditwah has risen to at least 334 people across Sri Lanka, with nearly 400 still missing, the Disaster Management Centre said on Sunday.

Rain has subsided after a week of heavy downpours but low-lying areas of the capital Colombo were still flooded, with more than a million people affected by the disaster, it said.

The northern part of Colombo was facing a major flood, as the water level in the Kelani River continued to rise, the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) said.

"Although the cyclone has left us, heavy rains upstream are now flooding low-lying areas along the banks of the Kelani River," a DMC official said.

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake declared a state of emergency on Saturday to deal with the aftermath of the cyclone and appealed for international aid.

People with their belongings wade through a flooded street after heavy rainfall in Wellampitiya on the outskirts of Colombo on Sunday. AFP

India was the first to respond, sending relief supplies and two helicopters with crew to carry out rescue missions.

Japan said it will send a team to assess immediate needs and pledged further assistance.

While the rains have subsided across the island, several roads in the worst-affected central province remained inaccessible, the DMC said.

The extreme weather system has destroyed more than 20,000 homes and sent 122,000 people into state-run temporary shelters.

Another 833,000 people required assistance after being displaced by the floods.

Troops from the army, navy, and air force have been deployed alongside civilian workers and volunteers to assist with the relief effort.

Indonesia, Thailand race to find missing

Indonesian and Thai authorities raced on Sunday to clear debris and find hundreds of missing people as the death toll from devastating floods and landslides across Southeast Asia topped 600.

Heavy monsoon rain overwhelmed swaths of Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia this week, leaving thousands of people stranded without shelter or critical supplies. The death toll in Indonesia rose to 442.

400 Indian passengers evacuated

COLOMBO, PTI: At least 400 Indian nationals stranded at the Colombo airport following the extreme weather conditions in cyclone-hit Sri Lanka, were sent back home on Sunday.

Around 150 of them were sent back to Delhi aboard flight C130 while 250 of them were sent to Trivandrum on flight IL 76 from the Bandaranaike International Airport here, Sri Lankan officials said.

Both the aircraft had arrived in Sri Lanka on Saturday carrying food and humanitarian aid for flash floods victims. As Sri Lanka battled the aftermath of the powerful cyclone Ditwah, Acting High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Dr Satyanjal Pandey, met stranded compatriots at the Colombo airport on Saturday.

The Indian High Commission provided food and water to those who needed it, and also assured the stranded Indians that New Delhi will facilitate their swift travel back home.

Officials express optimism as US, Ukraine try to work out peace deal

HALLANDALE BEACH, REUTERS

US and Ukrainian officials sat down in Florida on Sunday to discuss outlines of a peace deal with Russia, talks that Secretary of State Marco Rubio said he expected to yield progress toward ending the more than 3-year-long war.

"It's about creating a pathway forward that leaves Ukraine sovereign, independent and prosperous, and so we expect to make even more progress today," Rubio said in Hallandale Beach, Florida, where the meeting took place.

Sunday's discussions follow roughly two weeks of negotiations that began with a US blueprint for peace that critics said initially favored Russia, which started the Ukraine conflict with a 2022 invasion.

US President Donald Trump has expressed frustration at not being able to end the war. He pledged as a presidential candidate to do so in one day and has said he was surprised it has been so hard, given what he calls a strong relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has largely resisted concessions to stop the fighting.

Trump's team has pressured Ukraine to make significant concessions itself, including giving up territory to Russia.

The talks shifted on Sunday with a change in leadership from the Ukrainian side. A new chief negotiator, national security council secretary Rustem Umerov, led the talks for Kyiv after the resignation on Friday of previous team leader Andriy Yermak, chief of staff to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, amid a corruption scandal at home.

Marco Rubio (R), Steve Witkoff (L) meet with Ukrainian delegation in Hallandale Beach, Florida, on Sunday. REUTERS

As the meeting began, Umerov thanked the United States and its officials for their support. "US is hearing us, US is supporting us, US is walking beside us," Umerov said in English. Special envoy Steve Witkoff and US President Donald Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, were also present to represent the US side. Witkoff is expected to meet Russian counterparts later this week.

Nepal awards contracts to print bank notes to Chinese firm

KATHMANDU, PTI: A Chinese security printing press has received a contract to print Nepal's bank notes of various denominations, including for the latest NRs 1,000, a central bank official said Sunday.

Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB), the central bank of Nepal, has awarded a contract to China Bank Note Printing and Minting Corporation.

According to the contract awarded recently, the Chinese security press will design, print and supply the bank notes within nine months, Paudel said.

Netanyahu seeks pardon in years-long corruption trial

JERUSALEM, AFP

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, on trial facing corruption charges, announced Sunday he had submitted a pardon request, saying the long-running cases were tearing the country apart.

US President Donald Trump wrote to Israeli President Isaac Herzog earlier this month, asking him to pardon Netanyahu, who has repeatedly denied wrongdoing in the ongoing court cases.

"The trial in my case has been ongoing for nearly six years, and is expected to continue for many more years," Netanyahu said in a video statement.

He said he wanted to see through the process until acquittal, "but the security and political reality -- the national interest -- dictate otherwise. The State of Israel is facing enormous challenges".

Benjamin Netanyahu

"The continuation of the trial is tearing us apart from within, arousing fierce divisions, intensifying rifts," he added.

The cases against Netanyahu have exposed divisions in Israeli society between his supporters and opponents.

Netanyahu's backers have dismissed the trials as politically motivated.

The premier and his wife Sara are accused in one case of accepting more than $260,000 worth of luxury goods such as cigars, jewellery and champagne from billionaires in exchange for political favours.

He is also accused of attempting to negotiate more favourable coverage from two Israeli media outlets in two other cases.

Netanyahu said the demand for him to testify on a thrice-weekly basis had "tipped the scales".

"Three times a week is an impossible requirement," he said.

"I am certain, like many others in the nation, that an immediate end to the trial will greatly help to lower the flames and promote the broad reconciliation that our country so desperately needs."

Herzog's office confirmed it had received Netanyahu's pardon request.

Pope doubles down on 2-state solution for conflict

Pope Leo XIV doubled down Sunday on the Holy See's insistence on a two-state solution to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, saying in his first airborne news conference that it was the "only solution" that could guarantee justice for both sides, reports AP.

Leo made the comments as he flew from Istanbul to Beirut for the second and final leg of his maiden voyage as pope.

Though Leo has been fielding journalists' questions at informal gatherings at his country house, the brief encounter marked his first news conference as pope and followed the tradition of his predecessors of using his trips to engage with the media. But it was limited to two questions from Turkish journalists. The American pope was asked by a Turkish journalist about his private talks with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and whether they discussed the wars in Gaza and Ukraine.

Imran Khan's party leaders to protest outside Islamabad HC

PESHAWAR, PTI: All parliamentarians of former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan's party would lodge a massive protest outside the Islamabad High Court on Tuesday demanding the release of their incarcerated leader from Adiala Jail, a top party leader said Sunday.

Chief Minister of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Sohail Afridi, announced that after the protest demonstration outside the Islamabad High Court (IHC), party leaders will visit their incarcerated leader at the high-security jail in Rawalpindi. Khan, 73, has been lodged at the Adiala Jail in connection with multiple cases since 2023 after he was first arrested in August that year.

Addressing a press conference, Afridi said that Khan, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder, has been kept in "complete isolation" since November 4, and no one has been allowed to meet him.

Pak rejects UN warning over lifetime immunity for military chief

ISLAMABAD, AFP

Pakistan dismissed on Sunday a warning by the UN rights chief of potential "far-reaching consequences" for the rule of law in granting the head of the all-powerful military legal immunity.

The foreign ministry said Pakistan was "fully committed to protecting... basic freedoms and the rule of law as enshrined in the constitution", responding to criticism from UN rights chief Volker Turk.

A constitutional amendment approved by parliament earlier this month, shielding Field Marshal Asim Munir and other top officials from prosecution for life, has raised alarm among rights group.

The change also created a new Federal Constitutional Court, stripping the Supreme Court of some of its powers and tightening oversight of judges.

"These changes, taken together, risk subjugating the judiciary to political interference and executive control," Turk said in a statement on Friday.

Asim Munir

He warned of a risk of "far-reaching consequences for the principles of democracy and rule of law which the Pakistani people hold dear".

In its Sunday statement, the foreign ministry in Islamabad called the remarks "baseless" and said "it is regrettable that Pakistan's views and ground realities were not reflected".

Pakistan, a nuclear-armed nation of more than 250 million people, has long struggled to balance civilian authority with the military's role in politics. Widely seen as Pakistan's most powerful institution, the military has governed the country for nearly half its existence via a series of coups since independence in 1947.

Afghan suspect in Washington shooting likely radicalised in US: Security official

WASHINGTON, AFP

The Afghan suspect in the shooting of two National Guard members in Washington may have been radicalized after entering the US, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said when questioned about his motive on Sunday talk shows.

Rahmanullah Lakanwal, 29, faces a first-degree murder charge in the November 26 shooting that left a 20-year-old guardsman dead and another critically wounded.

"I will say we believe he was radicalized since he's been here in this country," Noem said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"We do believe it was through connections in his home community and state, and we're going to continue to talk to those who interacted with him, who were his family members, who talk to them," said Noem during a separate interview on ABC.

Lakanwal entered the United States in 2021 as part of a massive airlift by then-president Joe Biden's administration during the US military withdrawal and subsequent return to power of Taliban forces.

Guardsman Sarah Beckstrom's friend Hadley McCourt attend a memorial service for the 20-year-old West Virginia National Guard member who was killed in a shooting in Washington, DC. REUTERS

A resident of the western US state of Washington, Lakanwal allegedly drove cross-country to carry out the shooting a few blocks from the White House -- an attack that shocked Americans on the eve of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Officials from President Donald Trump's administration, which reportedly granted Lakanwal US asylum in April 2025, have blamed Biden's administration for lax vetting during the Afghan airlift.

Noem told ABC's "This Week" that Lakanwal was "maybe vetted" after entering the United States but said it was "not done well."

WORLD AT A GLANCE

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un with pilots at an event marking the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Korean People's Army Air Force at Kalma Airfield in Wonsan, Gangwon Province. AFP

4 dead, 10 wounded in shooting at banquet hall in California

▸ Four people were killed and 10 wounded in a shooting during a family gathering at a banquet hall in Stockton, sheriff's officials said Saturday, reports AP from Stockton.

Heather Brent, a spokesperson for the San Joaquin County sheriff's office, said the victims included both children and adults. Early indications "suggest this may have been a targeted incident," Brent said during a news conference at the scene.

The shooting occurred inside the banquet hall, which shares a parking lot with other businesses.

Detectives were still working to identify a possible motive.

Authorities did not immediately provide additional information about the conditions of the victims. Officials said earlier that several were taken to hospitals.

Trump warns Venezuela

▸ US President Donald Trump sharply escalated his threats against Venezuela on Saturday with an ominous warning that the country's airspace should be considered "closed," raising fears of imminent military action, reports AFP from Palm Beach.

Caracas, which views a large US military buildup in the Caribbean as a pressure campaign to oust President Nicolas Maduro, slammed Trump's warning as a "colonialist threat."

"To all Airlines, Pilots, Drug Dealers, and Human Traffickers," Trump wrote on social media, "please consider THE AIRSPACE ABOVE AND SURROUNDING VENEZUELA TO BE CLOSED IN ITS ENTIRETY."

He did not elaborate, but after months of deadly US strikes on alleged drug-running boats, speculation is mounting that Washington may launch some sort of military operation on Venezuelan soil.

People dressed as Santa Claus and Christmas Angel sing during the annual meeting of the rent-a-Santa Claus service in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Germany, on Sunday. REUTERS

MTV to shut music channels

▸ MTV kick-started a new era of music and pop culture in 1981, when it went on air for the first time, emblematically playing "Video Killed the Radio Star" as its debut music video, reports AFP from London.

More than four decades later, the channel, now owned by US media giant Paramount Skydance, will wind down its international music broadcasting by the end of the year as it struggles to compete with online streaming and social media.

MTV Music, MTV Hits and its 80s and 90s music shows will be shut down in the UK and other European countries in the coming months, sources at Paramount confirmed to AFP.

These music channels will stop broadcasting at the end of the year in France, Germany, Poland, Australia and Brazil as well, according to various media reports.

Hondurans vote amid Trump threat

▸ Hondurans began voting for president on Sunday amid threats by US President Donald Trump to cut aid to the country if his preferred candidate loses, reports AFP from Tegucigalpa.

Honduras could be the next country in Latin America, after Argentina and Bolivia, to swing right after years of leftist rule.

Polls show three candidates neck-and-neck in the race to succeed leftist President Xiomara Castro, whose husband, Manuel Zelaya, also led the country before being toppled in a 2009 coup.

Trump's favorite is 67-year-old Nasry "Tito" Asfura of the right-wing National Party.

His main challengers are 60-year-old lawyer Rixi Moncada from the ruling Libre party and 72-year-old TV host Salvador Nasralla of the Liberal Party.

Explosions rattle Balochistan

▸ At least seven explosions have occurred in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province in the last 24 hours without any casualties being reported while two security guards of a construction company were injured, reports PTI from Karachi.

Suspected insurgents carried out the attacks in Balochistan capital Quetta and Dera Murad Jamali.

On Saturday, insurgents hurled hand grenades at a police checkpoint in Quetta, following which an IED explosive was detonated near an Anti-Terrorism Department vehicle. Three other explosions were carried out later in the evening.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Asif Khan said that the blast was carried out near Lohr Karez, on the outskirts of Quetta.

IN BRIEF

MSRIT teams crowned champs

▸ The Ramaiah Institute of Technology (MSRIT) men's and women's team won the 'Oomen Mathew Memorial' State-level Inter-Collegiate Basketball tournament, organised by BMSCE College, on Sunday, reports DHNS.

In the men's final, MSRIT overcame BMSCE with a 50-35 win while their women counterparts defeated New Horizon 40-25.

Results (finals): Men: MSRIT: 50 (Ranveer 16, Kanishka 14, Adarsh 10, Monish 8) bt BMSCE: 35 (Pranav 12, Shrujal 8).
Women: MSRIT: 40 (Brynda 12, Nakshatra 10, Aadhya Aital 16) bt New Horizon: 25 (Shreya 12).

BDFA B Division from Dec 3

▸ The BDFA B Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium will commence from December 3, reports DHNS.

There will be a total of 18 teams divided into two groups of nine teams each battling it out for top honours.

B Div teams: Group A: Young Blues Elite FC, William FC, Vehicles FC, Juno FC, Revive FC, Infinite Belagavi FC, Bangalore Warriors FC, MD Sporting FC, Shooterz FC.
Group B: South India FC, AL Fateh FC, ADE FC, Bangalore Gunners FC, Empire FC, Pillanna Garden FC, Mysore Vijayanagar FC, FC Mangalore, KSP FC.

Vivan wins U-16 chess

▸ Vivan Mehta, Avyukth M won the U-16 and U-10 titles at the Champions Chess Academy Challenge at Rajarajeswarinagar on Sunday, reports DHNS.

Vivan dominated the U-16 category with six wins out of as many to finish ahead of Anvith Bhat while Avyukth also kept a clean record in the U-10 category.

Tri-series final abandoned

▸ Inclement weather forced the abandonment of the one-day tri-series final between India Under-19 and their Afghanistan counterparts at BCCI's Centre of Excellence on Sunday, reports DHNS from Bengaluru.

India U19-9 were struggling at 79 for five in 19 overs when a combination of rain and bad light stopped the play, and the match never resumed from that point.

Sanya bags PSA title

▸ Fifth seed Sanya Vats, a two-time former junior National champion, defeated fourth seed Nirupama Dubey 11-6, 11-9, 11-4 to clinch the women's title in the 11th Sunil Verma Memorial squash on Sunday, reports PTI from Mumbai.

It was the Delhi girl's first PSA title in what was also her maiden Challenger final.

In the men's final, French second seed Maceo Levy beat Egyptian top seed Yassin Elshafei 11-8, 11-8, 11-4 to lift the crown.

Messi steers Miami into final

▸ Inter Miami coach Javier Mascherano hailed Lionel Messi as "extraordinary" after the Argentine superstar steered the club into their first MLS Cup final with a 5-1 thrashing of New York City FC on Saturday, reports AFP from Fort Lauderdale, United States.

◆ ON TV ◆

FOOTBALL

La Liga: Rayo Vallecano vs Valencia **(1:30 am, Tuesday)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

HOCKEY

Men's Jr World Cup: Germany vs Ireland **(1:30 pm)**, South Africa vs Canada **(3:45 pm)**, Japan vs New Zealand **(5:45 pm)**, Argentina vs China **(8 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network and JioHotstar.**

Women's Jr World Cup: India vs Namibia **(7:45 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network and JioHotstar.**

CRICKET 1ST ODI

KOHLI turns back the clock

37-year-old's sublime 135 and India's clutch bowling hand the hosts 17-run win over South Africa

RANCHI, PTI

Virat Kohli reaffirmed his enduring value to India's ODI setup with a perfectly paced century that shaped his team's 17-run victory over South Africa in the series-opener, here Sunday.

On a flat JSCA surface, Kohli (135 off 120 balls) controlled the tempo of the innings from the moment he walked in, anchoring India's imposing 349 for eight with an effort that blended classical stroke-play with calculated acceleration.

The value of Kohli's 52nd ODI ton became even clearer during South Africa's chase, which disintegrated at the beginning under sustained Indian pressure.

With Harshit Rana's (3/54) triple strike and support from pacer Arshdeep Singh (2/64) and left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav (4/68), India always got wickets whenever Proteas threatened to get away and finally ended on 332.

Courtesy Marco Jansen's counter-attacking 70 and Matthew Breetzke's composed 72, South Africa kept their fans interested but India had no trouble whatsoever in wrapping up the contest for a 1-0 lead in three-match series. Kuldeep's twin strike in the 34th over actually became decisive after a breezy 97-run stand between Breetzke and Jansen as the wily left-arm wrist spinner removed both within a space of three deliveries.

Dew was also a factor in South Africa getting some easy runs as Indian bowlers struggled to grip the ball under lights.

Nine down, South Africa needed 18 off the last over and Prasidh Krishna ensured the hosts do not suffer a heartbreak after all the hard work by dismissing Corbin Bosch (67) with the second delivery.

Earlier Kohli's commanding knock came off 120 balls with seven sixes and 11 fours. His 136-run stand with Rohit Sharma (57 off 51) for the second wicket set up India's big total on a JSCA shirtfront.

With Kohli no longer part of T20Is, and no ODIs scheduled for India after New Zealand series in January, every outing in the format now comes with significance.

The 36-year-old responded with trademark authority, reminding the selectors and team management that he remains India's most bankable batter in the format.

Rohit too had a great platform to assert himself after being dropped at 1 but he could make only 57 before being trapped by Jansen.

Still, their 136-run partnership -- during a much-anticipated 'Ro-Ko' show -- would give confidence not to the two stalwarts but also the team management that they still belong to big stage and can serve India a bit more.

South Africa's top order crumbled under sustained Indian pressure as Rana's incisive new-ball burst left the visitors reeling in their chase. Rana dismissed both Ryan Rickelton (0) and Quinton de Kock (0) in the space of three balls.

Captain Aiden Markram's brief resistance ended on 7 when he edged Arshdeep, leaving the Proteas tottering at 11 for 3 in the fifth over.

Breetzke and Tony de Zorzi (39 off 35) attempted to rebuild with a 66-run stand, but Kuldeep broke the partnership just as de Zorzi looked set, trapping him lbw to make it 77 for 4.

Dewald Brevis (37 off 28) injected some momentum with three sixes, but Rana returned to claim his third wicket, ending the youngster's charge at 130 for 5 in the 22nd over, effectively snuffing out any realistic hopes of a contest.

It was a flat deck but the Proteas bowlers were also guilty of not bowling a probing line and length.

Kohli walked in early after Yashasvi Jaiswal's 18 ended via a faint edge off Nandre Burger, and the Ranchi crowd immediately anticipated a reunion worth waiting for.

Rohit survived a sitter, spilled by Tony de Zorzi at mid-wicket, and used the reprieve to settle.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Jaiswal c de Kock b Burger	18
Rohit lbw Jansen	57
Kohli c Rickelton b Burger	135
Gaikwad c Brevis b Baartman	8
Sundar c Bosch b Baartman	13
Rahul c de Kock b Jansen	60
Jadeja c Markram b Bosch	32
Rana (not out)	3
Arshdeep b Bosch	0
Kuldeep (not out)	0
Extras (B-5, LB-4, W-14)	23
TOTAL (for 8 wkts; 50 overs)	**349**

Fall of wickets: 1-25, 2-161, 3-183, 4-200, 5-276, 6-341, 7-347, 8-347.
Bowling: Jansen 10-0-76-2, Burger 10-0-65-2, Bosch 10-0-66-2, Baartman 10-0-60-2, Subrayen 10-0-73-0.

SOUTH AFRICA

Markram c Rahul b Arshdeep	7
Rickelton c Rana b Arshdeep	0
de Kock c Rahul b Rana	0
Breetzke c Kohli b Kuldeep	72
de Zorzi lbw Kuldeep	39
Brevis c Gaikwad b Rana	37
Jansen c Jadeja b Kuldeep	70
Bosch c Rohit b Prasidh	67
Subrayen c Rahul b Kuldeep	17
Burger c Rahul b Arshdeep	17
Baartman (not out)	0
Extras (LB-3, W-3)	6
TOTAL (all out; 49.2 overs)	**332**

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-7, 3-11, 4-77, 5-130, 6-227, 7-228, 8-270, 9-312.
Bowling: Arshdeep 10-1-64-2, Rana 10-0-65-3, Sundar 3-0-18-0, Prasidh 7.2-1-48-1, Kuldeep 10-0-68-4, Jadeja 9-0-66-0.
Result: India won by 17 runs. **Series:** India lead three-match series 1-0.
PoM: Virat Kohli.
Next match: On Dec 3 (Raipur).

RAINING RUNS

India's **349-8** against South Africa would be the highest total by a team batting first at the JSCA International Cricket Stadium in Ranchi, surpassing Australia's 313-5 vs India in 2019.

Rohit Sharma hit 3 sixes during his 57 that saw him become the leading six-hitter in ODIs.

Most sixes in ODIs

352	**Rohit Sharma (Ind)**
351	Shahid Afridi (Pak)
331	**Chris Gayle (WI)**
270	Sanath Jayasuriya (SL)
229	**MS Dhoni (Ind)**

The **136-run partnership** for the second wicket between **Rohit Sharma** and **Virat Kohli** made them the most prolific batting pair in ODIs in a particular country.

Most successful batting pairs in ODIs in a country

2,667 runs	2,596 runs	2,364 runs	2,310 runs
R Sharma & V Kohli (41 innings in India)	K Sangakkara & M Jayawardene (57 innings in Sri Lanka)	J Root & E Morgan (38 innings in England)	V Sehwag & S Tendulkar (51 innings in India)

Compiled by **Arun Gopalakrishnan**

Virat Kohli scored his 52nd ODI century in India's 17-run victory over South Africa in the first ODI in Ranchi on Sunday. PTI

Parvez Ahmed (left) and Kishan R pose with their spoils.

Parvez, Kishan seal doubles title

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's Parvez Ahmed and Kishan R cliched the doubles title in the Chennai Open tenpin bowling championships after scoring a thrilling 2-pin (737-735) win over Gurunathan and Soban D from Tamil Nadu on Sunday.

In game 1 played based on cumulative pinfall of two games, fourth seeds Parvez and Kishan R scored 386 pinfalls to take a narrow one-point lead over third-seeded Gurunathan and Soban (385).

In the second match, both teams fought hard to gain the lead but a strike from Kishan in the final frame sealed the title for Karnataka.

Hosts Mahipal Singh won the singles title after defeating second seed Benigopal L 200-168.

Russell retires from IPL, joins KKR as power coach

KOLKATA, PTI: Swashbuckling all-rounder Andre Russell on Sunday announced his retirement from the Indian Premier League ahead of the mini auction scheduled for December 16 and will join three-time winners Kolkata Knight Riders' coaching staff.

The 37-year-old Russell, who has been an integral part of of the KKR side since IPL 2014, will join their coaching staff as a "power coach" ahead of the 2026 edition for which an auction will be held in Abu Dhabi.

"Hanging up my IPL boots... but not the swagger. What a ride it's been in the IPL — 12 seasons of memories and a whole lot of love from the @KKRiders family," Russell wrote on X.

Karnataka suffer another tough loss

Mayank-led side goes down by a run against Rajasthan in SMAT

BENGALURU, DHNS

Mahipal Lomror top-scored with 48 runs for Rajasthan in their win against Karnataka in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy in Ahmedabad on Sunday. X

Karnataka succumbed to their second loss in as many games, suffering a heartbreaking one-run defeat to Rajasthan in their third match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

At the Narendra Modi Stadium Ground A, Ashok Sharma (4/43) and Kamlesh Nagarkoti (3/52) were instrumental in defending 202, albeit being expensive, while Akash Singh bagged the Player of the Match award for his economical (1/33) in a game where over 400 runs were scored.

With the coin falling Mayank Agarwal's way, Karnataka, eager for points on the back of their defeat to Jharkhand, opted to have a bowl.

Having been inserted to bat, Rajasthan notched up 201 for the loss of five wickets in 20 overs, with former Royal Challengers Bengaluru middle-order bat Mahipal Lomror (48), Kartik Sharma (46) and Deepak Hooda (43) and Bharat Sharma (38) scoring the bulk of the runs.

Karnataka's Vijaykumar Vyshak (2/39) and Vidyadhar Patil (2/41) dampened the damage, sharing four wickets between them.

Chasing a stiff 202 for four points, Karnataka were reduced to 51 for three in 6.5 overs, with Devdutt Padikkal (32 off 23), Mayank Agarwal (6 off 8) and Shrijith KL (2 off 5), failing to make a thumping statement.

However, Karun Nair (51 off 32) and Smaran R (48 not out off 31), steadied the innings and anchored the chase, before the former walked back in the 15th over. Mayank's men, however, failed to get home, despite some late fireworks from Vidyadhar Patil (27 off 9 balls), going down on the last ball of the game.

Fireworks

Abhishek Sharma smashed the joint third-fastest fifty in a T20 for an Indian off just 12 balls, smashing 148 not out for Punjab in their dominating 112-run victory over Bengal in Hyderabad.

The left-hander is now only behind Punit Bisht, who smashed 17 sixes for Meghalaya against Mizoram in the 2020-21 edition of the premier T20 domestic competition.

On the other hand, Sanju Samson helped Kerala to an easy eight-wicket victory, smashing a 15-ball 43 against Chhattisgarh.

Elite Group D brief scores:: Rajasthan: 201/5 in 20 overs (Bharat Sharma 38, Deepak Hooda 43, Kartik Sharma 46, Mahipal Lomror 48; Vidyadhar Patil 2-41, Vijaykumar Vyshak 2-39) bt Karnataka: 200/8 in 20 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 32, Karun Nair 51, Smaran R 48, Vidyadhar Patil 27).
Tripura: 182/7 in 20 overs (Bikramkumar Das 42, Vijay Shankar 59, Manisankar Murasingh 42; Vikash Singh 2-40, Anukul Roy 2-29) lt to Jharkhand: 185/2 in 17.3 overs (Ishan Kishan 113 n.o., Virat Singh 53 n.o.).
Uttarakhand: 164/6 in 20 overs (Yuvraj Chaudhary 74, Kunal Chandela 47) lt to Tamil Nadu: 168/5 in 17.1 overs (R Rajkumar 93; Yuvraj Chaudhary 2-21).
Delhi: 207/4 in 20 overs (Yash Dhull 47, Nitish Rana 76, Ayush Badoni 33) bt Saurashtra: 197/5 in 20 overs (Harvik Desai 32, Prerak Mankad 50, Ruchit Ahir 39 n.o.,; Suyash Sharma 3-20).

Verstappen punishes McLaren blunder to revive title hope

DOHA, AFP: Max Verstappen boosted his late bid for a fifth successive drivers' world championship on Sunday when he took full advantage of a McLaren strategic blunder to complete a sensational hat-trick of victories at the Qatar Grand Prix.

The Red Bull driver made an immediate pit-stop during an early safety car intervention, when McLaren duo Oscar Piastri and Lando Norris stayed out, and he capitalised by driving with cool precision to triumph in convincing style.

His win lifted him into second place in the title race with 396 points, 12 behind series leader Norris who finished fourth on a disappointing evening for him and the Woking-based team who were stunned by the outcome.

Pole-sitter Piastri slipped to third, but trimmed his deficit to Norris to 18 points with one race remaining in Abu Dhabi next Sunday where Verstappen has won four times in the last five years.

"It's all possible," said Verstappen.

The Dutch ace came home 7.995 seconds ahead of Piastri with Carlos Sainz third for Williams, 14.670 seconds adrift, ahead of Norris and the Mercedes pair Kiimi Antonelli and George Russell.

Max Verstappen. REUTERS

It was Verstappen's seventh win of the season, his third in succession in Qatar and the 70th of his career.

At lights out Piastri surged clear with a near-perfect start.

Behind him, Verstappen swooped to pass Norris round the outside of Turn One.

On lap seven Sauber's Nico Hulkenberg tagged Pierre Gasly's Alpine and spun off, prompting a safety car.

Verstappen pitted immediately from second for fresh mediums, but the McLaren pair stayed out.

Western Star wins feature

MUMBAI RESULTS

Western Star, from the stables of Narendra Lagad and ridden by Mustakim Alam, won the Director General Of Police Trophy, the feature event of the races on Sunday.

1. A Campbell Trophy - 1200M: Scaramouche (Sandesh) 1; Azure (Antony Raj) 2; Timeless Fortune (A Omkar) 3; Break Point (S Kamble) 4; Wb: 3-1/2, 4-1/4, 2-1/4L. T: 1:09.59. TB: Behram Cama. Fav: Scaramouche.
2. DJ Surti Salver -1000M: Heaven's Rhythm (Yash Narredu) 1; Rafael (Sandesh) 2; Akitania (C Umesh) 3; El Moran (CS Jodha) 4; Wb: 1, 1/2L, Shd. T: 0:57.69. TB: Mallesh Narredu. Fav: Surrealist.
3. RR Byramji Salver - 1600M: Baychimo (Sandesh) 1; Rosario (Trevor Patel) 2; Dedication (Neeraj Rawal) 3; Bugatti (Kritish Bhagat) 4; Wb: 3-1/4, 2-1/4, 3/4L. 1:35.72. TB: Adhirajsingh Jodha. Fav: Baychimo.
4. Gentleman's Trophy - 1400M: Vegatha (Ajinkya) 1; Diego Garcia (Trevor Patel) 2; Exciting (Pranil) 3; Red Merlot (Avinash Paswan) 4; Wb: 2-1/2, Nk, 4-1/2L. T: 1:22.66. TB: Pradeep Chouhan. Fav: Diego Garcia.
5. Directors General Of Police Trophy - 1400M: Western Star (Mustakim Alam) 1; Opus Dei (Pranil) 2; Singer Sargent (C Umesh) 3; Fourth Wing (Mukesh Kumar) 4; NR: Bashir. Wb: 1, 3/4, 3/4L. T: 1-21.80. TB: Narendra Lagad. Fav: Stormy Sea.
6. Captain H Hall Trophy - 1200M: Enforcer (Yash Narredu) 1; Charlie Brown (Antony Raj) 2; Santana Row (CS Jodha) 3; Lucio (Trevor Patel) 4; Wb: Lnk, 3L, Shd. T: 1:10.35. TB: Mallesh Narredu. Fav: Enforcer.
7. VR Menon Plate - 1600M: Exotic Star (K Pranil) 1; Marlboro Man (Ramswarup) 2; Daianne (Bhawani Singh) 3; Leo The Lion (Mustakim Alam) 4; Wb: 1/2, Shd, 1-1/4L. T: 1:40.62. TB: S Waheed. Fav: Speak The Breed.

Bengaluru dividends
I race: Rs 22w; 10, 28, 13p; Fc: Rs 358; Q: Rs 214; Shp: Rs 92; Thp: Rs 38; Tri: Rs 1,189 & 372; Ex: Rs 14,856 & 19,101.
II race: Rs 93w; 16, 19, 14p; Fc: Rs 1,139; Q: Rs 268; Shp: Rs 39; Thp: Rs 29; Tri: Rs 1,872 & 534; Ex: Rs 9,921 & 4,252.
III race: Rs 14w; 10, 13, 11p; Fc: Rs 42; Q: Rs 31; Shp: Rs 22; Thp: Rs 34; Tri: Rs 51 & 16; Ex: Rs 287 & 277.
IV race: Rs 68w; 14, 11, 17p; Fc: Rs 270; Q: Rs 53; Shp: Rs 36; Thp: Rs 30; Tri: Rs 499 & 334; Ex: Rs 6,460 & 8,306.
V race: Rs 45w; 14, 28, 25p; Fc: Rs 1,206; Q: Rs 619; Shp: Rs 98; Thp: Rs 68; Tri: Rs 22,644 & 6,469; Ex: Rs 89,870 (c/o).
VI race: Rs 20w; 12, 13, 15p; Fc: Rs 72; Q: Rs 43; Shp: Rs 26; Thp: Rs 31; Tri: Rs 190 & 179; Ex: Rs 665 & 163.
VII race: Rs 39w; 13, 23, 10p; Fc: Rs 253; Q: Rs 179; Shp: Rs 41; Thp: Rs 27; Tri: Rs 379 & 99; Ex: Rs 3,715 & 1,592.
Jackpot: Rs 10,149 (57). **Runner-up:** Rs 770 (322). **Treble:** Rs 1,374 (47).

France beat Australia; Spain, Dutch inch closer to quarters

MADURAI, PTI: Last edition's runners-up France continued their impressive run at the FIH Men's Junior World Cup, beating Australia 8-3 to register their second consecutive win in Pool F here on Sunday.

France, who defeated Korea 11-1 in their tournament opener, took the lead in the ninth minute through Arthur Morcrette who converted their first penalty corner.

But the lead was short-lived as Australia drew level three minutes later through Matthew Hawthorne (**in pic**), who first beautifully controlled a scoop pass and then raced inside the circle beating a few defenders before slotting the ball into the net from top of the box.

Patrick Andrew then scored an opportunistic field goal in the 22nd minute before Ian Grobbellar converted a penalty corner six minutes later to hand Australia a 3-1 lead.

James Liddiard (30th) pulled one back for France just at the stroke of half-time from a field effort.

Three minutes after the change of ends, France drew parity through Tom Gaillard, who slapped the ball in after he was set up by Aristide Michaelis, who dribbled past three defenders from the right flank before passing the ball to Gaillard.

The French boys continued to impress with their fast-paced attacking hockey and took the lead in the 49th minute through Gabriel Piole, who found the net with a fierce reverse hit after Michaelis' shot was saved by Australia goalkeeper Magnus McCausland.

India fall short in final to Belgium

IPOH (MALAYSIA), PTI

In an entertaining final, Belgium beat India 1-0 in a closely-fought encounter to lift the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup here on Sunday.

India were forced to settle for a silver, thanks to Thibeau Stockbroekx's lone goal of the match in the 34th minute. This is Belgium's maiden Sultan Azlan Shah title and only their second appearance in the event.

Unfortunately for India, who were coming into this match after a high-scoring 14-3 win against Canada on Saturday, they couldn't convert the three penalty corners.

While Jugraj Singh, Amit Rohidas and Sanjay have been successful in the PC attack during this tournament, they could not beat the Belgian defence.

This was India's second defeat in this tournament after losing 2-3 to the European powerhouse in the league stage. There were intense midfield battles and with experienced stars like Manpreet Singh and Hardik Singh rested for the tournament, the onus was on the younger lot who did well to keep narrow margins.

PC specialist Sanjay failed to breach the Belgian defence in a narrow 0-1 defeat in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup final in Ipoh on Sunday.

Both teams displayed a tactical game, with Belgium starting on a better note through better ball possession. Their attack troubled the Indian defence from both flanks and even forced a couple of sharp saves from the Indian goalkeeper.

Though there were two early PCs for Belgium, India did well to keep them at bay. India took a while to settle into the match while Belgium made them work in the midfield to control the play.

With 0-0 at halftime, Belgium shifted momentum and put India under pressure. The Indians resorted to high press and increased their circle entries but could not out-smart Belgian defence in the third quarter too.

Meanwhile, Stockbroekx's goal in the 34th minute put India under the pump.

The final quarter saw India make desperate attempts to level scores but Belgium's structure held strong and ran down the clock to seal the win.

Neil Kandall clinched the senior category advance dressage title last week.

Neil wins senior category title

BENGALURU, DHNS: Surge's Neil Kandall clinched the senior category advance dressage title as the Equestrian Premier League 2025 came to a conclusion at Embassy International Riding School here last week.

Throughout the season, riders accumulated points across dressage and show jumping, with June recording peak entries at 646 participants and August boasting the highest club turnout at 30 clubs.

Results: Senior (Advance Dressage D4 + 120–120 cm SJ6, 19 yrs & above): Neil Kendall (Surge – 37) 1; Isabelle Hasleder (CEC – 34) 2; Sresht Raju Mantena (Surge – 13) 3.

Junior (Pre Novice Junior D3 + 100–105 cm SJ4, 15–18 yrs): Manya Narayan (EIRS – 39) 1; Arnav Navratna (Zippy – 27) 2; Shubh Chowdhari (FSS – 26) 3.

Sub-junior (Pre Novice Children D2 + 80 cm SJ2, up to 14 yrs): Eshaan Sundaram (EIRS – 48) 1; Hashini B (SRR – 32) 2; Bhargav Babu (EIRS – 23) 3.

India stun Iran to reach AFC U-17

AHMEDABAD, PTI: An indomitable Indian football team staged a remarkable comeback to stun overwhelming favourites Iran 2-1 in their last Group D qualifying game and seal a place in the 2026 AFC U-17 Asian Cup here on Sunday.

BADMINTON SYED MODI INTERNATIONAL

Treesa-Gayatri defend crown

India's Srikanth goes down to Hong Kong's Gunawan in a three-game thriller

LUCKNOW, PTI

India's Treesa Jolly (back) and Gayatri Gopichand scored a 17-21, 21-13, 21-15 win over Japan's Kaho Osawa and Mai Tanabe in the women's doubles final at the Syed Modi India International badminton tournament in Lucknow. PTI

The Indian pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand retained the women's doubles crown but Kidambi Srikanth's hopes of snapping an eight-year title drought went up in smoke as he suffered a heartbreaking loss in the final of the Syed Modi International Super 300 here Sunday.

Former winner Srikanth, a 2021 world championships silver medallist, went down 16-21, 21-8, 20-22 to world No. 59 Jason Gunawan of Hong Kong in a 67-minute thriller.

The 32-year-old had last won a title in 2017 at the French Open and had come close earlier this year, finishing runner-up at the Malaysia Masters Super 500.

Defending champions Treesa and Gayatri, however, produced an attacking masterclass to rally from a game down and outwit the world No. 35 pair of Japan's Kaho Osawa and Mai Tanabe 17-21, 21-13, 21-15 in a pulsating one hour and 16-minute final. They were playing only their second event since Gayatri's return from a five-month shoulder injury layoff.

Gunawan started strongly to go 4-1 ahead and went into the break with a three-point lead. Errors crept into the Indian's game soon after as his lifts floated long, helping Gunawan move to 14-10. Srikanth answered with crisp smashes but Gunawan stayed sharp, surging to 17-11 with a straight down-the-line winner. Srikanth saved three of the seven game points before Gunawan sealed the opener with a powerful smash.

Switching sides brought a renewed Srikanth, who injected pace into his attack and unleashed razor-sharp smashes and brilliant retrieves to race to 6-1. A body smash from Gunawan broke his run, but Srikanth maintained pressure on the backhand side to lead 11-4, and eventually, grabbed 13 game points. He converted on the second to roar back into the contest. The decider saw Srikanth move to 5-1, but Gunawan clawed back with a jaw-dropping retrieval that left Srikanth on the floor, narrowing the gap to 4-5 and was soon leading 6-5. However, Srikanth managed to edge ahead 11-10 at the interval with a winning dribble. On resumption, Srikanth produced a deceptive net shot and targeted steep smashes to move ahead 14-11 as rallies tightened. Gunawan, however, reeled off three superb points—a fine drop and two attacking winners—to make it 14-14 and then led when Srikanth went wide.The duo moved from 17-17 to 19-19. Srikanth missed the backline by a whisker to hand Gunawan a match point, but the Indian saved it with a deep push that the Hong Kong player failed to retrieve. At 20-20, Gunawan unleashed a jump smash and followed it up with an attacking return to earn another match point, converting it when Srikanth's forehand push sailed long.

Puligilla-Sherif first Indians to finish on WRC3 podium

JEDDAH (SAUDI ARABIA), PTI: Indian rally racing touched a historic milestone as Hyderabad's Naveen Puligilla and co-driver Musa Sherif became the first pair from the country to finish on the podium in a World Rally Championship event here.

Competing in the WRC3 category at the Saudi Arabia Rally 2025, Puligilla and Sherif finished second in their class.

According to provisional results, the duo completed the gruelling rally in a time of 4 hours, 28 minutes and 58.7 seconds, finishing 26th overall among 41 cars.

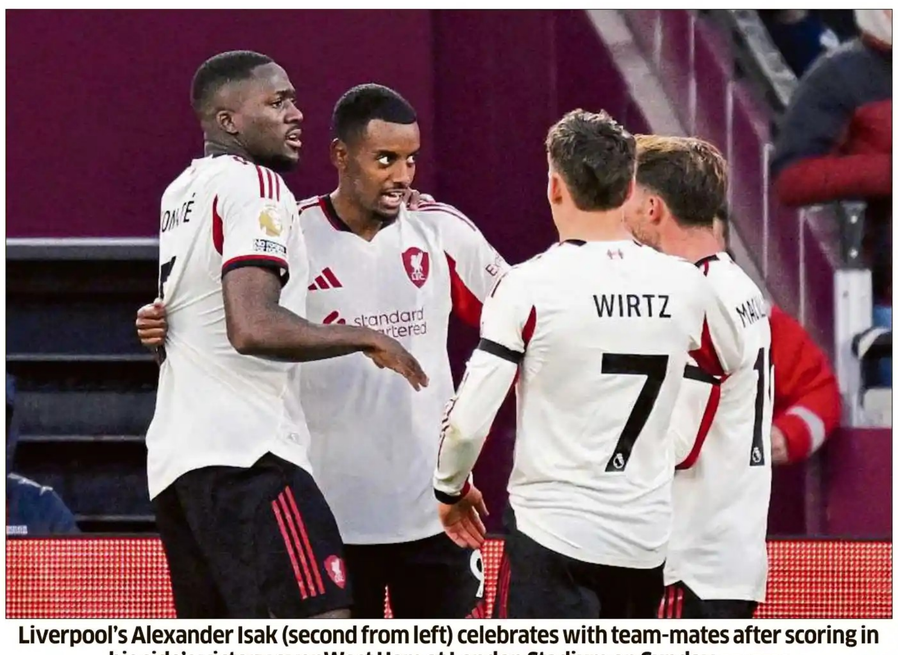
Their Ford Fiesta Rally3, prepared by Africa Eco Sports of Nairobi, Kenya, was just 1 minute 14.2 seconds behind the next WRC3 competitor, giving them a comfortable margin ahead of the rest of their class.

Divyanshi bags U-15 TT bronze

CLUJ NAPOCA (ROMANIA), PTI: Rising Indian table tennis player Divyanshi Bhowmick secured a bronze medal in the Under-15 girls' category at the ongoing ITTF World Youth Championships 2025 here on Sunday.

In the semifinals, Divyanshi went down fighting against China's Zhu Qihui 4-1 (12-10, 10-12, 6-11, 4-11, 8-11) to settle for a bronze.

In the U-19 boys' team event, the quartet of Ankur Bhattacharjee, Abhinandh Pradhivadhi, Punit Biswas, and Priyanuj Bhattacharyya claimed a silver medal, marking the first-ever podium finish for India in the category.



Liverpool's Alexander Isak (second from left) celebrates with team-mates after scoring in his side's victory over West Ham at London Stadium on Sunday. REUTERS

Isak ends goal drought

LONDON, AFP

Alexander Isak finally scored his first Premier League goal for troubled Liverpool to inspire a much-needed 2-0 win against West Ham on Sunday.

Isak had failed to score in his five top-flight appearances since making a British record £125 million ($165 million) move from Newcastle in September.

The Sweden forward banished that drought at the London Stadium with only his second goal in 11 games in all competitions for the Reds, following his maiden strike in a League Cup win against second-tier Southampton.

Cody Gakpo bagged Liverpool's second goal in stoppage time to secure their first win in four games in all competitions.

Hampered by injuries and a lack of match fitness after missing pre-season due to his protracted transfer saga, Isak was on target in the league for the first time since netting for Newcastle against Brighton in May.

The end of the 26-year-old's 10-match goal drought for club and country was a ray of hope for Liverpool amid a dismal campaign.

Zirkzee inspires United

Joshua Zirkzee scored his first Premier League goal for nearly a year before Mason Mount grabbed the winner as Manchester United came from behind to beat Crystal Palace 2-1.

Ruben Amorim's side trailed to Jean-Philippe Mateta's first half penalty at Selhurst Park, but Zirkzee and Mount netted after the interval to secure United's first win in four games.

United recovered from their lacklustre start thanks to Zirkzee's first goal in the PL since he netted against Everton in December 2024. The much-maligned Dutch striker had gone 24 league games without a goal, adding to perception that his £36 million move from Bologna in 2024 was a bad investment.

Results: West Ham: 0 lt to Liverpool: 2 (Isak 60th, Gakpo 90+2); Crystal Palace: 1 (Mateta 36th P) lt to Manchester United: 2 (Zirkzee 54th, Mount 63rd); Nottingham Forest: 0 lt to Brighton: 2 (De Cuyper 45+1, Tzimas 88th); Aston Villa: 1 (Kamara 67th) bt Wolves: 0.

Villarreal snatch late win

Alberto Moleiro helped Villarreal rise to joint second in La Liga on Sunday with a stoppage time winner in a 3-2 victory at Real Sociedad, reports AFP from San Sebastian, Spain.

The playmaker netted twice in the second half of a thrilling game in San Sebastian to take his team back ahead of Atletico Madrid and level on points with Real Madrid, who face Girona later on.

The Yellow Submarine secured their fifth consecutive league win to stay firmly in the Spanish title fight. Ayoze Perez fired the visitors ahead midway through the first half and teed up Moleiro for Villarreal's second soon after the break. Real Sociedad fought back strongly, with Carlos Soler netting on the hour mark.

Result: Real Sociedad: 2 (Soler 61st, Barrenetxea 87th) lt to Villarreal: 3 (Perez 31st, Moleiro 57th, 90+5).

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